



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO
ANTE NACIONES UNIDAS

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy
Permanent Representative of Mexico at the United Nations,
Open Debate on Strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations
Security Council**

November 9th, 2018

Mr. President,

We thank China for convening this debate on a topic of great relevance to the Organization and to the international community.

In the 21st century, it is naive to think that States can solve problems of a global nature, and even undertake major regional or national transformations, by themselves or in isolation. This is not possible due to the economic, cultural and even technological interdependence that we live in.

It is not correct to argue that international organizations work only when external conditions and international relations offer favorable conditions. International relations will always have difficulties and elements of complexity, but being part of the international community implies facing these complexities. That is why, we have been developing rules of coexistence and respect for 400 years. That is why, we created international law.

We created multilateral fora so that nations articulate our relations of friendship and cooperation, and discuss and find common solutions to shared problems, on the basis of the equality of States before the law, and mutual respect.

The multilateral fora and, in particular, the UN, confer and withdraw legitimacy from the behavior of the subjects of international law, which are us, the States. Those fora create custom, consolidate norms and construct principles. The fora do terminate power relations between States, but they transform them, establishing the line that separates civilization from the law of the jungle and chaos.

We must remember that multilateralism is deeply democratic, because it gives the opportunity to small, medium and large States to express themselves and perform on the international stage with certainty and equality.

States that defend multilateralism, like Mexico, do so from principle. Mexico is a State that loves peace and international law. Nevertheless, we also seek an effective and robust global governance as the core of our national interest.

This is why confrontation between sovereignty, or the primacy of nationalism, and multilateralism, is a false dilemma. Nations exercise and assert our sovereignty through multilateralism.

Mr. President,

The multilateral architecture of the 21st century covers almost all aspects of human activities and delivers on the ground. Like all human constructions, multilateralism is perfectible. It can be more efficient, have more effectively results, and work in a more coherent and coordinated way.

Yet, the multilateral machinery is still the best tool States can rely on. Attacks on multilateralism, and especially to the United Nations, should not be considered as certain or as an forecast of its disappearance. We should avoid the creation of mistrust.

The United Nations has clear purposes and principles that seek the good of humanity. Defending the United Nations should be simple: in the face of criticism and attacks we must analyze their profound motivation, and appreciate whether they are formulated and motivated by the best interest of humanity or whether they seek to harm it; if they seek to build for the benefit of all, or if they seek to destroy.

Once this has been done, we will have clarity, because, Mr. President, the United Nations, as I have been pointed out, is perfectible in its operations, but not in its aims or its purposes, because they are founded on universal and immanent values.

In the operational, institutional and financial field, we praise progress in the UN reforms to make it more efficient, more effective and more coherent in its activities. Therefore, we welcome the intervention made by the Secretary General Antonio Guterres and reaffirm our support for the reform process He is leading.

Mr. President,

The Security Council has the ultimate responsibility to safeguard both multilateralism and multilaterally determined rules to preserve international security. We need to strengthen this organ with a comprehensive reform that corresponds to the values of the XXI century, making it truly representative, democratic, transparent, efficient and effective, representing the greatest benefit for all, and not just for a handful of countries that seek to be permanent members. In this regard, we reiterate that the proposal of the United for the Consensus Group is the most democratic, achievable, realistic and comprehensive to strengthen the Security Council in accordance to multilateralism.

Likewise, we must continue to address the methods of work of the organization and the Security Council. Vetoing the action of the Security Council against atrocious crimes, goes against multilateralism, is a unilateral expression that contravenes the principles and purposes of the United Nations, since it damages the legitimacy of the collective security

mechanism for the maintenance of peace and security and is detrimental to the credibility of multilateralism. In this regards, the Franco-Mexican Initiative on the voluntary restriction of the permanent members of the Security Council of the use of the veto should be considered as part of the reform of the Security Council.

Mr. president:

Mexico reiterates its concern about the proliferation of the so-called "consensus rule" in the multilateral world. This is distorted by considering it as unanimity, as a kind of veto, instead of an aspiration. The alleged consensus undermines the ability of multilateral forums to function, reduces their progress to a minimum common denominator, that perpetuates the status quo, and is sometimes far away from representing the progress that humanity needs.

"Sustaining peace" as a new paradigmatic concept of this organization that articulates of the pillars of peace and security and sustainable development. This efficient articulation allows to focus on prevention, and at the same time, build communities with a healthy social fabric. "Sustaining peace" is a new vein of UN work, which requires a redesigned more robust and efficient architecture, that we must promote and enhance in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda.

Today's multilateralism has the person at its core, and responds not only to avoid military hostilities, as we did in 1945. The new face of multilateralism is inclusive, with women and girls at its center, with the same opportunities. The effectiveness of multilateral action can be measured when we are able to improve the lives of our communities, by working towards an universal compliance of the 169 goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The new face of multilateralism has been enriched by the presence of civil society organizations, the private sector, the academia, the media, which find in multilateral spaces the means to promote topics of interest with a local impact and ensure a citizen perspective.

Mr. President,

Multilateralism is not under questioning because one or more countries violate the UN Charter with the threat of the use of force, or attack the constructions of the majority, or decide to break international agreements and consider it better to act in isolation. Multilateralism would be disqualified if all the other members of the international community abandon the principles and purposes that humanity has agreed, in recent centuries, for the common good and prosperity; if we decide to give up in the quest of shared solutions before common challenges and if we "normalize" the selective or conditioned fulfillment of agreements forged by the community to the individual interests.

We reaffirm our deep multilateral vocation, we reaffirm our commitment and trust with the United Nations, we do not give up.