



THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

OPENING REMARKS  
IN THE 49TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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The global financial and economic crisis has increased poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The world is shaken by this crisis and a promising perspective to overcome it is not apparent in the horizon. It is necessary to implement a new paradigm of development with a humanistic character.

The current economic and social model hinders the full enjoyment of human rights and the right to development, hinders the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality, it is ineffective in creating jobs and voraciously destroys the environment, mainly punishing the poor and vulnerable. In this context, it violates - among others - the right to work and health. It also denies the right to food, which is now subject to an international market that has turned food into objects of speculation.

In this context, we note with concern how policies that undermine democratic livelihoods and erode the people's welfare are being developed. It argues, falsely, that layoffs, unemployment, the lowering of real wages and social security are inevitable and necessary measures.

The dilemma facing the world today is very simple: either we promote development with equity and social justice, or we promote economic and financial policies that deepen inequality and injustice among human beings.

Achieving the commitments of the Social Development Summit in Copenhagen and the Millennium Development Goals, is a major challenge at this historic time, that demands - more than yesterday - putting into practice the ideals of justice, equality and solidarity.

The 49th Ordinary Session of the Commission for Social Development is an important area to analyze and discuss the shortcomings and lessons learned in recent years regarding the implementation of effective strategies for the eradication of poverty. Strategies that we will have an opportunity

to share and that will enable States to direct their future actions to meet this urgent goal.

In these sessions of the Commission for Social Development we have the responsibility to review the implementation of the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit, and the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly. This is a good opportunity for a broad debate on the root causes of poverty, and examining the role of social security policies to effectively combat this scourge.

In this context, we have chosen the topic of Social Protection as the emerging issue of our discussions; an issue of great relevance in the current context of the global economic and financial crisis that is hindering its implementation.

We must rescue the social dimension of development models, and move towards new forms of social solidarity, security systems and social protection that help to eradicate poverty, hunger, misery, discrimination and inequality.

To achieve these objectives it is essential for the achievement of economic growth to be shared equitably; that there are comprehensive social protection policies that benefit the entire population; that universal access to education at all levels be provided to ensure access to health, food, decent work and decent housing, and other benefits that dignify the human being.

To achieve social justice it is necessary to promote policies of social inclusion and equity, with the active participation of the people, and adapted to the realities and specific objectives of each country.

The imposition of conditionalities imposed from the outside, has only generated more poverty, more unemployment and greater inequality.

The construction of a new model of development must be centered on the human being. Social justice, equitable distribution and social protection are the most effective mechanisms to reduce poverty and inequality.

I invite you to reflect on the State policies that can contribute to building a world community based on solidarity and reconciled with nature.