Republic of Nicaragua

Statement by H.E. Samuel Santos López,

Minister of Foreign Affairs

General Debate

68th Session of the General Assembly

New York, 30 September 2013

(Check against delivery)
Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

I want to begin by paying tribute, on behalf of the People and Government of Nicaragua, Comandante-President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Compañera Rosario, to the Commander of the Revolution of Our Americas and the Caribbean, Leader of the Free Men and Women of the World, Hugo Chavez Frias, who has left us a legacy of Firmness, Hopes, and the security of victories, in defending the inalienable rights of humanity, such as Sovereignty, Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Solidarity and Peace.

On behalf of the people and the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua presided over by Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, I welcome your election as President of the Sixty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, we are very pleased that the representative of a brother country, ALBA Member, Member of PETROCARIBE, and member of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, will guide us in the activities in this important organization, so that our work may contribute to the purposes and principles of our Charter, purposes and principles that must be implemented in our Organization.

The United Nations continues to demand a profound reform that can wait no longer. The position of some permanent members of the Security Council on this issue can no longer be an insurmountable obstacle. We continue to support the proposed UN reinvention by Compañero Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann. The power of our organization must fully lie in the General Assembly.

The economic and financial situation imposed by global capitalism continues to rapidly disintegrate the welfare state in developed countries and seriously affect developing countries.

Now more than ever, it becomes essential to establish a new Global Economic Model; Sustainable, based on Justice, Solidarity, Complementarity, and committed to the defense of the Earth and the Environment.

Also, international democracy cannot exist without respect for international law. Nicaragua has proven and demonstrated with reliable facts its adherence to international law; respect to the principle of resolving our differences through dialogue, by means of negotiation, to appeal to international bodies like the International Court of Justice to settle territorial disputes among others.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates:

We welcome the central theme that the President of the General Assembly has elected for the sixty-eighth Session: “The Post-2015 Agenda: Setting the Stage”. It is important therefore, that we agree to launch an intergovernmental process for that new Era.
In Latin America and the Caribbean we deepen our political, economic, social and cultural integration process, respecting our diversity, and building unity.

Our Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is achieving shared visions on social development, education, health, environment, energy and finance, among other sectors, and is now preparing to work collectively on cooperation, nuclear disarmament, fighting corruption, agriculture, science and technology.

Nicaragua, in the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America and in PETROCARIBE, has found a model of integration to overcome poverty, hunger and inequality, while strengthening the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Mesoamerican Integration System, and its economic and commercial relations with the international community and its organizations.

In this difficult context, Nicaragua continues to progress. The development model, which we have opted for, produces results. Despite the difficulties and limitations, the Millennium Development Goals in Nicaragua are being realized in a concrete manner, and constitutes a manifestation of our Government for the respect and promotion of human rights of its citizens, and its deep ethical commitment to the common good.

The FAO has recognized our country’s remarkable and exceptional progress to ensure the food security of our citizens and to reduce the prevalence of undernourishment.

Our Government guarantees the right to Universal Primary Education. Major programs are underway: the Battle for First Grade, the Intercultural Bilingual Education Program, the program for Inclusive Education and the Integral School Nutrition Program.

UN Women places Nicaragua among the first countries in the world with the highest percentage of positions in the Executive Branch, and of women in the legislative and judicial branches. 42% are female deputies in the National Assembly. They occupy 54% of positions in the Executive Branch, 60% in the Judiciary Branch and 50% in the Municipal Councils. We created the Ministry of Women to promote gender equality and empower women, and our laws ensure women's enjoyment of their human rights.

Nicaragua received the Atlanta Cifal Award for achieving their goals in reducing maternal mortality and received the "The Americas" Award by the United Nations System in recognition of the National strategy named “Maternal Homes”. In 2006, the National maternal mortality rate was 92.8 per 100,000 live births. In 2012 the rate was 50.9 and we continue fighting to reduce it further.

We continue our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. Preventive measures are being socialized and supportive care is provided to patients.
In 2012, Nicaragua received recognition from the OPS for its contribution to the community-policing program against malaria. Campaigns are being developed to curb dengue, leptospirosis and influenza.

We have successfully carried out the campaign "Live clean, live healthy, live nice, live well", which aims to clean and beautify communities, preventive health against epidemics and pandemics, as well as maintain a harmonious and respectful relationship with one another and with the environment.

All of these projects are made possible by the enormous effort made by our people, for a Social, Economic and Political Model, of Dialogue, Alliances and Consensus, recognized by all. Our People and their inexhaustible capacity for hope, for their essential relationship with the Christian, Socialist and Solidary Model that has been built together, and which all sectors of the country participate in, continue to progress, privileging Peace, Tranquility, and the full exercise of their rights.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates:

Our Defense of Peace and International Security is unwavering.

Similarly, we continue to fight against drug trafficking and the various manifestations of transnational organized crime. Our strategy "retaining wall" produces positive results. We are committed at the regional level with the implementation of the Central American Security Strategy, and it is urgent that the international community gives more support through additional financial resources to the efforts and investment the Central American countries make against these scourges. Nicaragua, despite its limitations, invests considerable resources from its budget to ensure an optimal environment for public safety. Its successes are recognized internationally and Nicaragua is seen as one of the safest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates:

We are committed to the struggle of other peoples for their full independence and sovereignty. Therefore:

We demand once again the immediate and unconditional termination of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, as well as the immediate and unconditional release of the Cuban patriots imprisoned in that country. The arbitrary and capricious inclusion of this sister country on that unilateral list of state sponsors of terrorism must stop.

We reiterate our full support to the legitimate rights the Republic of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute relating to the "Question of the Malvinas Islands".

We recognize and welcome the progress of the political process of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and reject international campaigns that are made in order to weaken it.
We condemn, once again the arbitrary conduct of the Government of the United States in preventing the aircraft of Compañero Nicolas Maduro, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from flying over Puerto Rico’s airspace. This act and the refusal of the United States to grant visas to Venezuelan Brothers to attend the General Assembly.

I would like to reiterate our support for the brotherly people of Puerto Rico in their struggle for self-determination, independence and social justice. Puerto Rico is one of the last colonial enclaves in our continent; those brave peoples deserve our full support and solidarity in order to take its place within the United Nations and in our Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), so that these colonial situations disappear from our Latin and Caribbean America. Our solidarity is with Compañero Oscar Lopez Rivera, whom we demand be freed immediately.

We place our hope in that the peace process in Colombia comes to fruition, bringing peace and social progress to its people.

We support the efforts being made in order to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East and in Northern Africa.

Nicaragua continues to support a negotiated solution to the bloody conflict in Syria. The proposal of the Russian Federation to put an end to the war, has broad international support, including from countries that are part of the Security Council with veto rights.

We reiterate our commitment to the Palestinian cause in their struggle for self-determination and the right to establish their own state, and we consider that the resumption of talks between Palestine and Israel are steps in the right direction, which must be accompanied by the suspension of the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of the Palestinian people.

We reiterate our solidarity with the struggle of the Polisario Front and the People of Sahrawi, which this year reaches its fortieth anniversary.

We welcome the 50th anniversary of the African Union under the banner of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance.

Furthermore, Nicaragua continues to support the just aspirations of China-Taiwan for greater participation in the various organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates:

Much has been said and heard of these days about the Grand Canal of Nicaragua. With this project, our Government intends to address the unprecedented transformation that has occurred in global maritime trade within the first decade of the 21st century, which is expected to
continue to grow, particularly from Asia and the Americas, and will complement the Panama Canal expansion.

We are projecting a Canal for Peace, for the Development of all peoples, to express responsibly, as a World Heritage Site. A Canal opened to international investment with certainty and transparency, as the realization of the dreams of the General of Free Men, Mr. Augusto C. Sandino and for the progress of the people of Nicaragua.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates:

The severity of climate change continues to persist.

“Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected,” is what Mother Earth’s Charter says to us.

Therefore, in this statement lies the essence of our vision and our duty: to save Earth's vitality and ourselves as a Mankind.

Thank you.