

## **Opening Speech of the 2nd Workshop of National Integrity**

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President to the Forum: “Strengthening Democracy and Transparency in Honduras”

Second Workshop of National Integrity with Regards to the Role of Culture, Educations and Health in Human Sustainable Future

July 12, 2001

After the disaster caused by the hurricane and tropical storm Mitch at the end of the October, 1998, we met, as a request of the National Council on Sustainable Development and Transparency, Honduras (CONADES), in this same auditorium of the Central American Bank on Economic Integration (BCIE), in order to celebrate the First Workshop on National Integrity about Ethics, Transparency and Sustainable Development, in which we had as main expositor our brother in Christ, Michael Camdessus, former Director and Manager of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

As a result of the dialogue initiated in this workshop and certain about the necessity of formulating a long term national strategy for sustainable development, we subscribed on November 26 of the same year, jointly with the Government, the civil society and the private sector, the National Commitment for Integrity and for Sustainable Future of a New Honduras. This was done under the framework of the principles, aims and commitments of Agenda 21, the Earth Charter Initiative and the Central American Alliance for a Sustainable Future (ALIDES).

Considering that the United Nations Organization has declared the year 2001 as the International Year for Dialogue between Civilizations, the Pope John Paul II, in his Message for Peace for the year 2001, asked us to work hard in the creation of a culture of dialogue and solidarity. According to the Pope we must “cultivate in the souls of people the awareness of these values, leaving aside ideological prejudices and political selfishness so as to feed that cultural and universal humus towards nature, which will lead to the development of a constructive and fertile dialogue”.

Within this context, we, Christians must walk together in the name of the only Christ, towards the only Father guided by the same Holy Spirit as the fountain and beginning of unity. Do this through dialogue among civilizations so as to keep what unites us and destroy what divides us in order to look for the common good within a new culture for sustainable development that will allow us to provide equal opportunities to all Hondurans.

As President of the Forum for Strengthening of Democracy and Transparency, Honduras, we feel highly honored of co-sponsoring this event in conjunction with the National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES), UNESCO, OPS/OMS, Capacity 21, the World Bank and the Central American Bank on Economical Integration (BCIE). Being aware of the fact that the reduction of poverty and the consolidation of a human sustainable development process, are interrelated aspects that tend to improve peoples'

quality life and strengthens democracy with ethics and transparency within the framework of the Central American Alliance for a Sustainable Future (ALIDES).

When promoting the search of consensus amongst all sectors of the Honduran society, with regards to the principles, goals and compromises of ALIDES, we are following the United Nations international objectives on sustainable development policies. All this, in order to accomplish the environmental sustainability, the economical growth, social equity and human solidarity through mechanisms of deepening democracy in decision making with an ample participation and inclusion of people within a long term vision.

The third proposal from the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (ENDS), that has been distributed among the participants of this event, has been formulated within the framework of the planning process and system, established in the Article 329 of the Constitution of the Republic with the participation of the Legislative Powers of State as well as the economical, social, professional, trade union and political organizations, properly represented at the National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES).

We congratulate the members of CONADES for this great initiative, which enhances the layman's place in religion and society matters to share a culture of dialogue and human solidarity in the search of the human good to reduce poverty while improving the environment.

The implementation of the strategy with sustainable criteria and indicators will permit the revision of progress by applying the Agenda 21 commitment as well as the decennial 2002 results (Rio + 10) of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to take place next year in Johannesburg, South Africa, World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Opening this process of non-governmental actors linked to sustainable development, CONADES has incorporated annex 8.4 to the document of the third proposal from ENDS. This is the National Report of the Evaluation for Rio + 10 that contains the analysis of the planning process for sustainable development and its implementation, integration and participation as a base for sustainable development. A revision of national critical issues, education, training and public conscience is recommended in the context of a future vision.

Facing the challenges of a new millennium, the Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter Initiative, present general principles for ecological integrity, a just and sustainable economic order, the strengthening of democracy towards a culture of peace and cooperation that will allow us to re-define our priorities and to search for a new beginning with the purpose of building a sustainable global society.

Therefore, supporting the implementation of the third proposal of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (ENDS), we endorse the spiritual dimension of the Earth Charter as a Declaration of Interdependence and Principles for Sustainable Development

to promote a dialogue about shared values and ethics for the globalization of sustainability.

It is urgent to maximize human development and ecological protection, recognizing that the environmental, economical, social, cultural, ethical and spiritual problems and aspirations are interrelated as stated in the principles, basis, objectives, instruments and commitment of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Future – ALIDES. That this is the first regional strategy for sustainable development in the world, based on Agenda 21, that has the virtue of interrelating the regional and national elements through the National Councils on Sustainable Development and the Central American Council for Sustainable Development, formed by the Central American Presidents and the Prime Minister of Belize whom could delegate their representation.

Now that Honduras holds the temporary presidency of the Central American Council for Sustainable Development, mechanisms must be adopted which can assure the civil society's participation in the whole sustainable development process, strengthening the National Councils of Sustainable Development as ALIDES main tools and developing an ethical values framework to achieve this.

As in the First Integrity Workshop the National Commitment for Integrity and Sustainable Development of a New Honduras was subscribed, in this second one, we invite you to join the declaration of endorsement to the Earth Charter, accepting the vision and aims of the document and a commitment to join the global society for a just, sustainable and peaceful world as well as working towards the implementation of the Earth Charter values and principles. At the same time, and facing the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the year 2002, we urge all governments to support the Earth Charter through the United Nations General Assembly so that the care for the environment, the common good and respect for life serve as fundamental basis for sustainable development within the globalization of solidarity.

Searching for ethics and transparency as fundamental basis for sustainable development, in this second integrity workshop, we will analyze, in the three first panels, the role of culture, education and health within human sustainable future. During the afternoon, a fourth panel on corruption and citizens' security will be presided in which we will talk about the good things that we are doing in Honduras to achieve the administrative honesty, fiscal transparency, citizens' security and a code of ethics in the Armed Forces.

In the context of Agenda 21, we should implement the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (ENDS) between 2002 and 2005 with the participation of ALIDES, the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, the Ethical Declaration Against Corruption of CELAM, taking into consideration the Earth Charter consultation process as well as the Americas' Summits declarations and action plans, so as to revert the loss of ecological resources by the year 2015 with the purpose of assuring a balance between economic development, social equity and environment protection. For which we reiterate our support to CONADES for the creation of a National Fund or Foundation for

Sustainable Development of Honduras that will permit the mobilization of resources towards financing human sustainable development.

Many thanks.