



**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by Ambassador Jorge Valero, Deputy-Minister for North America of
the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**High Level Segment of the 18th Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development**

New York, May 12, 2010

Mr. President,
Distinguished Ministers and High Level National Authorities,
Permanent and Deputy Representatives,

We would like to join the declarations of the G77 and China and the Rio Group, made by the representatives of Yemen and Chile respectively. These statements express the view that Southern countries have been defending for years in regards to the ever more pressing issue of sustainable development as a necessary option for humanity.

We would like to emphasize what we believe is the key aspect of this important debate. We are referring to the perverse economic model of production, accumulation of wealth and consumption that has been historically imposed through the relations of domination.

The systemic disturbances that have been happening in the last millennium (the food crisis, the impacts of climate change, the economic and financial crisis) show us the wear and tear of a model of domination, which is supported by negative values that place the market and earnings above the human being and the common good.

Sustainable development is a challenge for humanity. The current prevailing economic models seek only to maximize profits and capital accumulation.

It is imperative to achieve justice, equality and equitable distribution of benefits and the objective should be the equilibrium of ecosystems in order to preserve, prolong and multiply life.

Mr. President,

The problem is that the current economic models are based on selfish interests that obstruct sustainable development; they transfer the costs and losses from the monopolistic companies to society and nature.

For its part, the social and ecosystem balance must be founded on joint cooperation and altruism.

The conflict between selfishness and competition on the one hand, and solidarity and cooperation and altruism, on the other, is evident. This contradiction has marked the history of humanity and has led to the current human, social and environmental disaster.

Within the framework of capitalism there is a conflict between high productivity and high levels of poverty and inequality. In the present conditions, the highest productivity in the economy is achieved by damaging the planet and affecting the sustainability of human existence.

What is at issue, is how to make the planet earth more habitable, ensuring all species that inhabit it, including the human species, oxygen, water, forests, and fertile land for the welfare of mankind.

The current patterns of production and consumption are responsible for the breakdown of both the social equilibrium and the ecosystem. Therefore, it is necessary to overcome the negative values and organizational forms that support them.

Mr. President,

On the path to achieving sustainable development, it is necessary for production to meet the essential needs of society and nature; to prevent the waste of productive resources; to develop efficient public transport services; avoid transgenic production and pesticides and eliminate the commercial advertising that promotes unnecessary consumption.

Another challenge in achieving sustainable development, is to create a system of information and communication oriented towards a humanistic education for all, in terms of promoting higher human values like: protecting traditional agricultural production, including that of indigenous populations, and the local and regional markets and encouraging new forms of integration and cooperation based on solidarity, complementarity and the sharing of benefits.

Similarly, it is necessary to promote the transfer of technologies so that all countries can achieve technological sovereignty, and also promote energy efficiency and sustainable endogenous development.

Mr. President

The road to sustainable development is not possible without solving the structural causes of the social imbalances and the disequilibrium of the ecosystem and overcome the neoliberal, consumerist and warmongering policies that generate them.

Thank you very much.