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Theme:

*Peace and Security Matters in Diplomatic Training:
Contemporary Conflicts, a Global View*

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Peru's Diplomatic Academy Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is very pleased to participate at the 41st Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations. We have been in this Forum since its inception, over 40 years ago.

This happens to be my second attendance, since I participated in the 40th Meeting, celebrated two years ago in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. I keep vivid and happy memories of my stay in Baku and of the brand new premises of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, which had been inaugurated one week before on a campus powered by geothermal energy. That 40th Meeting was a real success. I am sure that the 41st will be as fruitful and productive as the previous one in Baku.

Sincere congratulations to the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation, particularly to my fellow colleague and friend, Ambassador Tharni XN Ngwevela, Chief-Director of the Diplomatic Academy, for having nicely organized this 41st Meeting. The valuable support of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and that of the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, is also highly appreciated.

This year, as you well know, our sessions will concentrate on "Peace and Security Matters in Diplomatic Training: Contemporary Conflicts, a Global View". Our gracious host is the Department of International Relations and Cooperation here in the beautiful City of Pretoria, where history abounds.

The venue of our 2014 Meeting has been properly chosen, here in South Africa, where harmony and social integration were achieved during the last decade of the 20th century, mainly thanks to Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mr. Nelson Mandela. He physically left us last December, but will remain forever in our minds, in our hearts, as a champion of freedom, of equality among peoples and nations.

While paying homage to Nelson Mandela we can affirm that his name and PEACE are synonymous. The same is true for Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Mr. Mandela spent his life fighting for equal opportunity and political, economic, social, cultural, educational rights for his people. He was an example for mankind. His long captivity ignited him with more energy to fight for his ideals.

I feel honored and grateful for having been kindly selected to participate in the first panel. Let me start by saying that maintenance and preservation of peace is a corner stone in training future diplomats in Peru. I can state that undoubtedly this principle is shared at similar institutions of the Americas and other Continents, many of which are represented now in Pretoria.

At the Peruvian Diplomatic Academy, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and that of the Organization of American States, we emphasize the fact that countries should settle their differences without endangering justice, world stability and security. In other words, refraining from threats or force against the territorial integrity or independence of any state, or performing any other procedure inconsistent with the purposes of the U.N., O.A.S., and many other similar multilateral bodies, as the African Union. Relevant documents on the matter are duly analyzed and commented.

To become skillful professionals in the art and science of diplomacy, our students are also taught and trained for carrying-out duties as negotiators; to be capable elements of enquire commissions; good mediators and conciliators; and to eventually performing tasks as members of arbitration procedures and of judicial settlements. Of course, always working with honesty, sincerity, openness, transparency.

The nature, origins and characteristics of situations disturbing peace and security are permanently assessed. The same can be said regarding steps being taken by the world community, within the framework of international law, to cope with these abnormal phenomena.

United Nations peacekeeping missions are also a subject of study. As we are aware, the valuable services rendered to mankind by the Blue Helmets, to prevent and resolve disputes around the world, were recognized in 1988, by awarding them the Nobel Peace Prize. Being a Peruvian, allow me to remind that many of my fellow citizens have been and are members of peacekeeping missions in different places of Earth. Some of them have been immolated on behalf of friendship among nations.

Case studies of conflicting situations and other past and recent cases which affect peace and security are reviewed at the classroom, as well.

In addition to peacekeeping missions having military forces representing United Nations to face international conflicts, nowadays intra-State conflicts and civil wars are also a matter of study, bearing in mind that those turbulent, bloodthirsty, situations might be propagated to other countries.

We are examining thoroughly those matters which are part of the agenda of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Unitar), in addition to environment, governance and research.

As far as the environment is concerned, it is pertinent to point out that our students at the Peruvian Diplomatic Academy are now being trained to cooperate with COP-20, that is, the 20th Session of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled to take place in Lima, next December.

Regarding governance, we emphasize, *inter alia*, same as our other colleague institutions represented in this Forum the importance of achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, mainly on poverty reduction and social inclusion. Regarding research, it should be noted that we are taking into account innovative approaches, methodologies and tools dealing with peace and security matters.

The international community is now taking into consideration other phenomena affecting peace, stability and security. For example, drug-trafficking and terrorism, which are carefully being studied, as well those measures adopted to neutralize them and to avoid its proliferation.

There are a number of other transgressions, such as counterfeiting, internet fraud, copyright infringements, cyber warfare, human trade, children exploitation, corruption,

crimes against ecology, and others against women and civil liberties, undermining economic, social, cultural, political development around the world.

Consequently, it is also of great importance to study the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. This is the only international convention dealing with organized crime. It entered into force in 2003 and Peru was among the first five countries to ratify it. (January 2002)

The League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations, along with other organizations, as well as states and many institutions, have been trying for almost one century to eliminate factors generating threats or aggression against peace and security. Nevertheless, there are still many acts of war and transgression in defiance of world harmony.

American Professor Joshua S. Goldstein (Ph.D., M.I.T.) in his book "War on War" (Book of the Year Award, 2011) feels optimistic by considering that wars tend to vanish. This might be partly true, but as Dr. Goldstein also admits, by showing a list of present conflicts according to the prestigious Uppsala University, Sweden, there are still a large number of conflagrations in progress, such as: (As of July 2014)

WARS

-Syria

The world's bloodiest war by far, having generated millions of refugees. Atrocities on all sides but primarily the government. Spread to Iraq in 2014. Still no solution in sight.

-Afghanistan

Fate of government uncertain as international community draws down forces and Taliban persists.

-Iraq

Radical Islamists from the U.S. war in Iraq fought in Syria and in 2014 seized much land and resources with support of Sunni tribes who oppose Shi'ite government.

-Pakistan

After the collapse of peace talks, government battling Taliban elements in autonomous tribal areas adjacent to Afghanistan.

-Nigeria

In the north, a violent Islamist group has instigated repeated violence such as bombings, and government attacks in response. Very sad day when the Islamist terrorists blew up the U.N. building in 2011. Now they are killing women vaccine workers. The fighting occasionally spills over into neighboring Cameroon.

-Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa)

Beefed-up peacekeepers suppressed one armed group in the violent east of the country, and in 2014 were trying to coax another to disarm. Sporadic but really nasty fighting continues to erupt in certain eastern locations.

-South Sudan

After a long north-south war, the south voted for independence, achieved in 2011. But South Sudan itself slipped into a bloody civil war (along ethnic lines) that reportedly has killed tens of thousands. A shaky cease-fire has been in effect since May 2014.

-Israel/Palestina

Current fighting with Hamas in the Gaza Strip has exceeded a thousand killed.

-Ukraine

Fighting ongoing in the east, near Russia, has killed more than a thousand in 2014, in addition to the hundreds killed by the shoot-down of a civilian jet. Government is trying to dislodge pro-Russian armed separatists from territory they control.

-Libya

New fighting in 2014 between armed militias that overthrew Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

SERIOUS ARMED CONFLICTS

-Central African Republic

Alarming levels of sectarian fighting (Muslim-Christian) with the potential for a genocide. Cease-fire agreed July 30, 2014.

-India

Little Maoist insurgencies of long standing; now in a cease-fire with one main group, may be winding down.

-Mali

Ethnic insurgency threatens to erupt again. Cease-fire agreed in May 2014.

-The Philippines

Sporadic residual fighting with Islamist militants on southern islands.

-Russia

Low-level Islamist militants from the south, including Chechnya. Sporadically bombings.

-Somalia

African Union troops (mostly from nearby countries such as Uganda) restored government control of all major cities, leaving al Shabab militants in the countryside to carry out occasional bombings in the cities they no longer control (and in neighboring Kenya, which has troops in Somalia).

-Sudan

The genocide in Darfur was mainly in 2004, but brutal incidents continue there; rebels remain active.

-Yemen

The post-Saleh government with many competing factions has had some success against Islamic militants who had seized some towns in the south, but ethnic-based fighting has flared up in the north.

According to Uppsala University, there are now also armed conflicts in these countries: Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Turkey, Uganda; and in the United States, a global war on terror since September 11, 2001.

I repeat: The above data on conflagrations in progress in the world have been taken from Uppsala University, as cited by Dr. Joshua Goldstein.

As we can see, despite an extensive legal machinery established by the international community, and despite measures being adopted to promote and preserve peace in

the world, there are still many conflicting focus in our planet. But I think that we should be as hopeful as Professor Goldstein happens to be.

To that end, our Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations, helped by our Foreign Ministries, other organizations, and encouraged by our Dean in Vienna, and by the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, should keep doing their best to prepare diplomats that eventually will play significant roles to achieve an enduring peace in the world. In other words, to enable them to prevent, interpret, evaluate and settle contemporary conflicts.

These shall be the main objectives of diplomats, states, international and non-governmental organizations, as is underscored in the memoirs of Ambassador Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, written after serving ten years as Secretary-General of the United Nations. He precisely entitled his book "Pilgrimage for Peace".

Thank you very much. Muchas gracias. Ngiyabonga. Enkosi