



**MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**57<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**STATEMENT  
BY  
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PERMANENTE REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ON THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

**NEW YORK, 30 SEPTEMBER 2002**

Mr. President:

I congratulate you for your election and I extend this congratulation to the other members of the chair.

One year ago, this Commission began its work when the world was under the effects of the terrorist attacks that shook New York and the world.

These attacks proved that the world faces a new threat against international security, the asymmetric conflict.

The asymmetric conflict renders useless expensive and huge nuclear and conventional weapons systems as a basis of security; these systems do not deter terrorism.

Neither aircraft carriers, nor ballistic missiles, nor tank divisions, nor great armies are effective in this context. Even less for the poor countries where social exclusion and the feeling of losing one's dignity is a root cause that can breed subversion and terrorism.

The hypothesis of a war between Latin-American States has practically disappeared. I ask myself why we do not turn our armed forces into smaller and more operative forces that will work to confront the new threats to security like the asymmetric conflict, internal subversion, natural disasters which are more and more frequent, and also to contribute to civic and social action and participate in peacekeeping operations.

For this reason, Peru has been heading and promoting a series of initiatives at the sub-regional, regional and international level directed to confront these situations and reduce military expendings. Among the efforts that my country has been promoting these stand out:

A) The creation of an Andean Zone of Peace. Last 17<sup>th</sup> of July, the countries of Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela adopted the Compromise of Lima that establishes the Andean Charter for Peace and Security and commits these five countries to jointly work for the limitation and control of defense spending.

This is a fundamental advance that requires the formulation of a common security policy that includes the limitation of defense expenses, the control of conventional weapons and measures to increase transparency.

B) The creation of a zone of South American as a Zone of Peace and Cooperation, approved on this past 27<sup>th</sup> of July by the Presidents of the 12 countries of the South American subcontinent. We hope that this 57<sup>th</sup> General Assembly picks up this initiative and that it receives the recognition and the cooperation of all the countries of this organization so that it reaches the goals of disarmament, security and development that we have assumed.

C) The proposal to reduce defense expenses, introduced to our friends in the region, with the goal of reorienting these funds to the fight against poverty and social development, particularly increasing health and education budgets.

This initiative has been supported in different regional and sub-regional forums, such as Organization of American States, the Ministerial Declaration of the Non- Aligned Movement in Durban and in the latest declarations by the Heads of State and Governments of the Rio Group in Santiago and San Jose.

In these latest Declarations was supported the proposal of an effective and gradual limitation in defense spending for the use of these budgets in the fight against poverty and it was urged that this advance be continued both, in the bilateral and multilateral level. Peru will comply taking the actions necessary to put to practice this proposal.

D) The initiative to negotiate the proscription of missiles in Latin America with the goal of strengthening security in the region. This proposal includes not only air to air missiles but also long and medium range strategic missiles.

An ad-hoc meeting of experts will take place, shortly in Lima, during which we hope the presence of all the countries of the region to analyze this proposal and its scope.

E) The strenghtening of the United Nations Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a focal point of this and other regional initiatives. To the fulfillment of theses objectives my country hopes that the Organization can grant it with greater resources.

Mr. President,

I wish to finalize these words reaffirming the role that my country lends to this Commission as an appropriate forum for open dialogue and debate in the issue of disarmament, and in this sense, reiterate the compromise of Peru to give its total cooperation in the works that we will develop this year.

Thank you.