



TETĀNGUĒRA NDIVE
JOKUPYTYRĀ
Motenondcha

Ministerio de
RELACIONES
EXTERIORES



Paraguay
de la gente

*Misión Permanente de la República del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas,
Nueva York*

**Remarks by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Paraguay,
Ambassador Julio C. Arriola, in the high-level debate on 'Multilateralism after
COVID 19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary'?**

Madam President:

1. My delegation appreciates the conveying of this event. We align ourselves with Kazakhstan's intervention on behalf of the group of landlocked developing countries.
2. We believe that the topic that brings us together could not be more appropriate and that, throughout these two weeks, we have heard the answers clearly and emphatically.
3. For Paraguay, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), complied with its mandate and confirmed its relevance as a space for review and examination of the Global Objectives, despite to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The speeches in the various thematic debates, along with the 47 voluntary national reports and inputs from multiple stakeholders, have put a human face on the reports released in these difficult months.
4. We are facing a convoluted world. The pandemic's consequences and the urgency to adopt profound changes present a strong argument for a coordinated global response based on unity, solidarity, and cooperation, which only robust multilateralism can offer.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic is plunging us into a deep socioeconomic and financial crisis and the grim health crisis. According to the World Bank, COVID-19 is the most adverse shock the global economy has suffered in times of peace over a century. Furthermore, the Secretary-General's report confirms that progress in achieving the Goals remains insufficient and unbalanced and that many of our gains in the fight against poverty, hunger and inequality have either been lost, stopped or hindered, pushing the most vulnerable even further back. And while we grapple with the coronavirus disease, climate change is occurring at an unprecedented rate.
6. COVID-19 sharpened the global village concept, highlighting the collective vulnerability of a hyper-connected and interdependent world. Perhaps this is the first truly global crisis, but the affected countries do not face the challenges on an equal footing. The starting point has not been the same for developing countries,



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particularly for the most vulnerable countries, which are disproportionately affected. Our Organization cannot lose sight of this reality.

7. The uncertainty that weighs on the immediate future is undeniable. We do not know how deep and persistent the crisis will be or how long its adverse effects will last. It may cause many of us to opt for isolationism, but this is not the response that our peoples and the planet need.
8. The way we deal with the current threat will determine how we will respond to future ones. This crisis should not be a pretext to lower our ambitions and commitments to sustainable development; on the contrary, we believe that it demands greater unity, cooperation, and solidarity. We need strategic alliances between governments, the private sector, and civil society.
9. A sustainable, equitable, and peaceful future is possible, but it depends on the political decisions we make today. At this juncture, many of the measures taken to date are very encouraging. For example, our Organization reacted quickly and appropriately with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan and the framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19. We also saw notable gestures in other instances, such as the G20 decision to grant a debt standstill for the least developed countries. We are confident that these initiatives are only the prelude to more ambitious global actions and that the United Nations will have a central role in articulating them.

Madam President:

10. The 75th anniversary must be a moment of reflection, even more in this exceptional situation. For Paraguay, since its creation, the United Nations has demonstrated its resilience and has positioned itself, with more lights than shadows, at the center of the rule-based international order. We believe that this crisis gives us that unique clarity that usually accompanies the darkest moments and the opportunity to make the anniversary a decisive turning point.
11. Firmly confident in the multilateral system, my delegation invites all Members to see this crisis as an opportunity and act accordingly. The world's eyes are on us, and we must respond with concrete actions that will benefit our peoples.
12. To conclude, the Republic of Paraguay, a founding Member State, reaffirms its commitment to the Organization, its objectives, and principles enshrined in the Charter. We call for reinforcing its central role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its catalytic and coordinating role for a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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I thank you.