



**MISION PERMANENTE DE CHILE
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 Second Avenue, 40° Piso, New York, NY 10017
tel. (917) 322-6800 - fax (917) 322-6890

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INTERVENCIÓN DEL
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
EMBAJADOR SR. HERALDO MUÑOZ
EN SU CALIDAD DE PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE CONSOLIDACIÓN DE LA PAZ
CON OCASIÓN DEL EVENTO DE ALTO NIVEL
“LAS CRISIS ALIMENTARIA Y ECONÓMICA EN LOS PAÍSES POST-CONFLICTO”

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STATEMENT BY THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AMBASSADOR HERALDO MUÑOZ
AS CHAIR OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH LEVEL EVENT
“THE FOOD AND FINANCIAL CRISES IN THE POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES”

ECOSOC
UNITED NATIONS

New York, 29TH October 2009

Mr. Secretary General,

Madame President of the Economic and Social Council,

Madame Director General of the World Food Program,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Post-conflict countries are suffering a triple damage phenomenon in the present world context. They experience the harsh effects of the food crisis, the damages of the widespread global financial crisis, and the enduring fractures of historic violence and conflict.

According to F.A.O., the combination of the food and global economic downturn has pushed, during the past year, more than one hundred million people into hunger and poverty. And the worst is that the high number of hungry people is not a result of poor harvests, but is due to high food prices – particularly in developing countries – as well as to lower incomes and lost jobs.

In order to alleviate the consequences of these crises, and to support countries emerging from conflicts facing such threats, the United Nations must strengthen its coherent and integrated response. Today's meeting is a step in that direction.

As Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, I must underline that countries emerging from conflict are particularly vulnerable to financial and food prices shocks. Most of these countries are not well integrated into the world economy and suffer more than others the current global decrease in non-aid flows.

For example: a) foreign direct investment has fallen due to the substantial reduction of international liquidity and equity investments; b) reliance on one or few exports hits them harder compared to more diversified developing economies, in view of weakened world demand; c) investors' appetite for post-conflict markets decrease due to higher risk aversion; and d) remittances from the diaspora has fallen due to difficult economic conditions in sending countries. The drop in overall financial flows to developing countries could amount to nearly 25 percent in 2009-2010.

In countries emerging from conflict, lack of access to food and price increase may lead to a sharp decline in the populations' confidence in the peace process and the state, and to protests and riots as we have seen in some countries, with the danger of a resumption of violence and a new vicious cycle of instability.