

Madrid, July 20, 2015

H. E. Barack Obama  
President of the United States of  
North America

Distinguished and dear Mr. President,

I have requested Ambassador James Costos to kindly forward to you this letter, because your extraordinary leadership in very relevant questions is giving hope to many peoples and enlightening somber horizons. It is necessary to act right now in issues that, because of their potential irreversibility, can reach a no return point, especially in social and environmental aspects of human life.

As former Minister of Education and Science in Spain (1981-1982) and former Director General of UNESCO (1987-1999) I have been able to witness and participate in some turning points of contemporary events, and I am particularly worried at present because of the conceptual and practical progressive deterioration of the living conditions worldwide. According to the UNESCO's Constitution, the world should be "guided by democratic principles" and, through education, the citizens should be "free and responsible".

The neoliberalism promoted by the Republican US Party has marginalized the United Nations and substituted them by plutocratic groups (G6, G7, G8...G20) and, even worse, the ethical values have been displaced by the market ones.

The terrible balance is that every day die of hunger more than 20,000 human beings at the same time that 3 billion dollars are invested in armament and military expenditures.

Humanity has entered in the anthropocene and nevertheless there is no, after so many activities, projects and proposals (UNESCO UICN, 1948; Man and Biosphere, 1971; Helsinki, 1972; Rio de Janeiro, 1992; Kyoto.), a real, proportionate, intelligent and creative reaction. The Arctic is melting, the

climate change is evident, the social disparities and lack support for development increase at the same time that, according to a recent report of Oxfam/Intermón, 85 individuals have a wealth superior to the 50% of humanity (3 billion people!).

The United Nations' priorities -food for all, water access, health services, environment care, education and peace- could now be attained by the first time in history, because for the first time in history as well, the "peoples", as enshrined in the first phrase of the Charter of the UN, are able to express themselves freely, they can have a global consciousness and become world citizens and, even more important, the women, "cornerstones" of the new era, according President Nelson Mandela, have a progressive role in the decision-making according to their inherent human faculties and not acting in a male mimetic way.

Today, for the first time, "the voice of the peoples" can rapidly lead to a genuine democracy. Democracy at personal, local, regional and international levels is the solution. Peoples' participation, essential for real democracy, is feasible at present.

You, a courageous and imaginative leader, are readdressing many present trends, even if, in your own country, you must overcome the opposition of a secular short sighted and antidemocratic Republican Party.

Your decisions concerning immigrants, *medicare*, military budget, relations with other countries and Islam, etc. etc. deserve an immense recognition. It will be very timely to convene an extra-ordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to adopt some crucial decisions on environment and world priorities for a dignified life, at the same time that a new design of the UN System is presented to "invent the future", as President J. F. Kennedy said in June 1963.

The "new UN System", with the General Assembly of 50% of States representatives and 50% of representatives of civil society, and adding to the present Security Council an Environmental Council and a Social Economic

Council, has been studied in depth. And all-together with Karel Vasak, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Boutros Boutros Ghali, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Mario Soares, Juan Antonio Carrillo Salcedo... a text of a Declaration on Democracy has been drafted.

(<https://declaraciondemocracia.wordpress.com/> )

A transition from an economy of speculation, productive delocalization and war to a knowledge-based economy for sustainable and human development, to “save the succeeding generations” from extreme poverty could then take place.

Finally, what really matters is the transition from a culture of imposition, domination, violence and war to a culture of encounter, conversation, conciliation, alliance and peace. From force to word!

Mr. President: in few months you will meet in the UN with Pope Francis, who has already shown his lucid views on economy, solidarity and ecology. I am sure that a joint proposal (and perhaps seconded also by other prestigious leaders as former Presidents Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, Mario Soares...) could trigger many other supports and be the starting point of “the new beginning” proclaimed in the “Earth Charter”.

Sorry, Mr. President, for this long letter. But you said “We can”. Now, Mr. President, “You can”.

With highest esteem,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Federico Mayor', with a large, stylized initial 'F'.

Federico Mayor