

**REMARKS BY ALÍCIA BÁRCENA,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF HELEN CLARK,
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**

**ECLAC (Santiago, Chile)
4 November 2009**

Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
Mr. Niky Fabiancic and Mr. Beat Roahr, Deputy Regional Directors of the UNDP
Mr. Enrique Ganuza, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Chile
Mr. Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC
Distinguished national authorities,
Distinguished Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corp,
Resident Coordinators of the United Nations System in Latin America and the Caribbean,
Colleagues from ECLAC and other UN entities in Chile
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome - Nau Mai
Greetings – T•n• koe (tenaa kue)/Teenaa koutou, Teenaa koutou,
Teenaa koutou katoa.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I welcome you to this regional house of the United Nations, which is a living expression of the economic and social development aspirations of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples. For ECLAC and for me personally, it is a great honour that you have accepted our invitation to share your views on the challenges of development in the midst of a very busy agenda in Chile.

This lecture is of particular interest to us for several main reasons.

First, because development is at the very heart and soul of this institution. It would be difficult to write the economic history of Latin America and the Caribbean without mentioning ECLAC and its tireless, indeed, ceaseless efforts to develop its own thinking. In its sixty years of history, ECLAC has developed a genuinely regional thinking, a vibrant and critical thinking that has been capable of re-examining itself in relation to concepts such as the centre-periphery, truncated industrialization, changing production patterns with social equity, styles of development, endogenous development, authentic competitiveness, structural heterogeneity, the fiscal covenant and social cohesion. There is no doubt that ECLAC first became known for Prebisch's proposal on how to react to a moment in history that was marked by the protectionism prevalent in the wake of the Great Depression. Many of ECLAC's ideas, which were often controversial or misinterpreted in their time, are in the light of the crisis vindicated by history. Our thinking has generated controversy and debate, but this is precisely the role that we should play: that is, to generate thought, stimulate a debate of ideas, open up paths to new paradigms of development.

Second, your lecture is particularly significant, since it is simply not possible to tackle multiple crises with old development paradigms. The international recession, climate change, high food and fuel crisis: jobless recovery, less growth, less trade and less carbon threatens to undo hard-

won development gains in many countries, at the very time when we need to accelerate action to achieve Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

A new development paradigm needs to be widely articulated – combining development goals, like those in the Millennium Development Goals, with environmental objectives so that we can truly achieve long term and sustainable development.

Our region is searching for this new path.

In our region, more than 180 million Latin Americans 34% of the total population are unable to satisfy their own basic needs; of those, 72 million live in absolute poverty.

But our region is not the poorest of the world but indeed the most unequal. The equity issue involves both old and new challenges, which are sometimes hidden behind regional averages. There are considerable differences among and within the countries of the region. In each country, there are some sectors which profit from the opportunities of globalization; but others which are unable to become integrated and will not do so without explicit policies to strengthen the complementarity of productive transformation and equity, of competitiveness and social cohesion.

This adds up to four gaps: inequality, lack of investment, inadequate fiscal policies, the productivity gap due to lack of innovation. Our region is not the poorest of the world but indeed the most unequal. Of course, with many differences among and within countries.

One of the main lessons of past crises is that social recovery takes almost double time and effort that economic recovery.

The financial crisis and its social impacts, together with the threat of climate change, call into question the achievements of the production paradigm and the economic paradigm that prevailed in the past decades. In the face of this, citizens are today seeking refuge and guidance from their Governments, from their States and from a fairer international order in which their voice is heard. Let us state it plainly: without a new State architecture that assumes responsibility for the new normality, for the imperatives posed by the agenda of equality of rights, and for the challenges of climate change, the future is under threat. This is the focus of our current thinking.

The new paradigm includes priority towards international migration, universal social protection, sustainable development and the spread of information technologies, and the renewed emphasis on the central role of education in development.

All indications are that the bursting of the bubble has revealed a more silent and profound crisis of the development paradigm, a crisis of the ideas that held sway throughout the world over the past 20 years. As you clearly stated in a recent speech of the UNDG last May, and I quote: *“It is certainly true that economic growth has a significant role to play in reducing poverty – but on its own it cannot do the job. Markets do not deliver equity and justice. It is not their function. It is public policy which determines whether the fruits of growth are widely distributed and whether opportunity and justice are available to all”*.

Bottom-line, the financial crisis and its social impacts, together with the threat of climate change, call into question the achievements of the production paradigm and the economic paradigm that prevailed in the past decades. In the face of this, citizens are today seeking refuge and guidance from their Governments, from their States and from a fairer international order in which their

voice is heard. Let us state it plainly: without a new State architecture that assumes the responsibility for the new normality, for the imperatives posed by the agenda of equality of rights, and for the challenges of climate change, the future is under threat. This is the focus of our current thinking: better State, better markets and most of all a more active citizenship.

Third, It is clear too that development partnerships in the 21st century are very different from those of the past. A new political geometry is in the making with a more interdependent realization. It has been proved definitively that no country can find its way out of the crisis on its own, that in order to survive, even the most powerful need others. The Group of Eight (G-8) will no longer suffice, the minimum now is the Group of Twenty (G-20). In today's world, the emerging economies can have a voice and can be heard. In other words, today, for the first time in recent history, multilateralism is not just a necessity, but a reality with which we have to work. Development paths must now be worked out and followed within a multilateral framework.

And, fourth, we represent two institutions of the United Nations family, united by the same purpose: the development of our countries, with the emphasis on the poorest and most vulnerable, and a commitment to the values of the Charter of the United Nations, human rights, freedom and equality for all persons in their capacity as equal rights holders.

This is the time when our organizations and other agencies from the UN System are strengthening ties both at regional and national levels to help countries of our region in these difficult times to cope with a jobless recovery, less growth, less trade, less carbon. Only together we will be able to exercise unwavering leadership, political commitment, and dedicated resources for development which will bring about lasting improvements in the lives of poor and vulnerable people around the world. Tangible proof of this cooperation is the regional assessment that we will be presenting jointly for the 2010 MDG review in cooperation with more than 17 agencies.

Dear friends,

Helen Clark was appointed Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in April of this year. She brings with her a vast experience in public policymaking, in international affairs, in development programmes.

She was Prime Minister of New Zealand for nine years, ending just recently in 2008. Her political career has been based on the values and principles of the New Zealand Labour Party.

Twenty-seven years ago when Helen became a member of the Parliament: and I quote: *"My greatest wish is that at the end of my time in this House, I shall have contributed towards making New Zealand a better place than it is today for its people to live in."* You fulfilled your dream of making New Zealand a better place. We hope you will pledge the same in UNDP.

Now as the first ever women Administrator of the UNDP, you hold a responsibility as Chair the United Nations Development Group, consisting of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

From a geographical position far from the centres of world power, Ms Clark was able to raise her country to a very prominent position in the development sphere. Helen Clark's perception and view of the world are shaped by this vantage point. This special feature gives us the feeling of

her closeness to us in terms of the ability to feel and view progress and development from a peripheral geographical position.

But, above all, throughout her public life, Helen Clark has demonstrated a firm commitment to the values of social justice, equality and freedom. And her immense intelligence in putting those values into practice place her among the select few of this world who can claim such a distinction.

We are honoured to hear you and I recall what you said in your first meeting of the Executive Board of UNPD back in May 2009: A new development paradigm could be in the making.

It is an honour and a privilege to welcome Helen Clark here today. The floor is yours.