

The future is in our hands. It is a matter of vision and of accountability to present and future generations. It is a responsibility we all share; and if we fail to shoulder it, millions of poor families will never be able to exercise the right of human development. The Central American and Caribbean countries will be unable to solve their problems of vulnerability. Thousands of hectares of forests will be destroyed each year through subsistence farming, and very soon we will no longer have tropical forests to absorb the gas emissions that heat up the earth and alter climates.

This is a unique opportunity for making progress on issues of utmost importance for human development. Costa Rica has a commitment to them, which our poet Jorge Debravo put as follows:

We have the obligation to fight for a better future for human beings. For a marvellous future. We cannot remain silent. We cannot be observers or mere witnesses to the struggle of our people. In a time like this, being neutral is to betray the destiny of humankind.

Because we cannot remain silent, because we cannot be observers or mere witnesses, because we cannot be indifferent in building our destiny, as a small country, Costa Rica invites you to play an active role in promoting the progress and well-being of our peoples, through an effort by each individual and each nation, opportunities, international solidarity and mechanisms for cooperation that we can design to strengthen our relations as neighbours, friends and strategic partners in the task of building human development in the Americas.

