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AS WRITTEN

SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENTAIL DELEGATION
 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF;
 EL SALVADOR: FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL
 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

CAIRO, EGYPT, 5 TO 13 SEPTEMBER, 1994.

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR,
 CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR, AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, FA1THFUL TO ITS PRINCIPLES,
 CONSCIOUS OF THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREAS;
 BASED ON OUR LEGISLATION AND ON SIGNED AND RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL
 TREATISES, UPON OUR JUDICIAL, POLITICAL SYSTEM AND AIMING TO FIND REAL

AND CERTAIN SOLUTIONS TO THE DIFFERENT ISSUES BROUGHT TO DISCUSSION BY THE AGENDA, WISHES TO SET FORTH ITS POSITION BEFORE THIS CONFERENCE.

THE MORAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL BASIS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR HAS A STRONG SOCIAL AND HUMANISTIC TENDENCY. THIS CONCEPT OF THE JURIDICAL ORGANIZATION OF SALVADORAN SOCIETY IS REAFFIRMED BY THE STATEMENT OF THE FERVENT DESIRE TO ESTABLISH THE DIGNITY TOWARD HUMAN BEINGS."

AGREEING WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED, THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION BASIS FOR LIVING TOGETHER IN OUR NATION, FOUNDED UPON RESPECT AND OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR READS: "PERSONS ARE THE ORIGIN AND THE GOAL OF THE AC-TES OF THE STATE, ORGANIZED TO ATTAIN JUSTICE, JURIDICAL SECURITY AND COMMON WELL-BEING". THE WHOLE SPIRIT AND WORD OF THE CONSTITUTION CONVERGES ON THIS PRINCIPLE: HUMAN PERSONS AND THEIR LIFE ARE THE BASIS AND GOAL OF THE STATE.

THUS, THE STATE SHALL SERVE HUMANITY TOWARD DEVELOPMENT, EXCLUDING ANY SYSTEM TRYING TO AIM TOWARDS DEHUMANIZATION OR SLAVERY OR OPPRESSION.

HUMANS HAVE PRIMARY NEEDS ARISING FROM OUR OWN NATURE AND RECOGNIZED BY ALL CULTURES AND CREEDS AS "FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF HUMANITY OR "FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES".

WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, BEING CONSEQUENT WITH OUR MORAL AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES, WE DO NOT SHARE NOR SUPPORT ANY PROPOSAL THAT THREATS OR INJURES IN ANY WAY, OR IMPLIES LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE OR THE UNREPARABLE SACRIFICE OF HUMAN ATTRIBUTES.... SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO LIFE SINCE THE INSTANT OF CONCEPTION, TO PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY, TO SECURITY, TO WORK, TO EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND CONSCIENCE,

AND TO THE FREE USE OF GOODS UNDER THE LAW.

NEITHER SHALL WE SUPPORT ANYTHING THAT ELIMINATES OR WEAKENS THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY, AS A PERMANENT SOCIAL GROUP, FUNDAMENTALLY BUILT UPON MARRIAGE OR COMMON LAW UNION BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN, OR BY KINSHIP; NOR SHALL WE SUPPORT THAT WHO DESTROYS THE UNITY OF THE FAMILY, OR PARENTAL AUTHORITY, OR TRIES TO ELIMINATE THE PREFERENTIAL RIGHT OF PARENTS TO CHOOSE EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN; ANYTHING AIMING TO ESTABLISH UNEQUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN, TOWARD RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, OR FAILS TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTEGRAL PROTECTION TO MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE REJECT ALL PRACTICES AND DISCRIMINATIVE MEASURES AGAINST WOMEN, OR THOSE AFFECTING IN ANY WAY THE PROTECTION TO CHILDREN, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER BIRTH, AS EXPRESSED IN THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, ADOPTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 1959.

WE AFFIRM THE ABOVE DEEPLY CONVINCED OF THE VALUES INHERITED BY OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION THROUGH THE CENTURIES FROM THE WESTERN CHRISTIAN CULTURE; BUT ALSO RESPECTFUL AND CONSIDERATE OF ANY OTHER DIFFERENT TENDENCIES AND CONCEPTS THAT MAY BE DISCUSSED IN THIS GRAND CONFERENCE.

WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY OUR PRESIDENT, DR. ARMANDO CALDERON SOL ALONG WITH THE OTHER PRESIDENTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA, DURING THEIR SUMMIT MEETING IN COSTA RICA, AND WHOSE I TAKE THE LIBERTY TO READ FOR YOU:

“FAMILY IS THE BASIC ORGANIZATION OF SOCIETY, AS WELL AS THE MAIN AGENT FOR TRANSMITTING AND DEVELOPING VALUES. AMONG THESE, SOME EXCEL:

LIBERTY, COMMON GOOD, EQUITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT. THEY ARE PRINCIPLES IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES, AND SHOULD BE PROMOTED IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.

FAMILY SHALL BE SUSTAINED UPON THE RESPECT FOR LIFE, SINCE CONCEPTION, AS WELL AS ON THE UNION OF MAN AND WOMAN, AS DEFINED BY OUR TRADITIONS. THE STATE IS OBLIGED TO SET POLICIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO GUARANTEE SOCIAL MOBILITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS, AND TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE PATERNITY AND MATERNITY, AS A REQUISITE FOR CONCRETION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE REVALUING OF THE FAMILY."

WE ARE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT CHAPTER 2 OF THE ACTION PROGRAM DRAFT FOR THIS CONFERENCE IDENTIFIES THE TRUTHFUL ESSENCE AND NATURE OF WHAT THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD BE FOR ALL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD:

THE RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES PROCLAIMED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN BEINGS AS THE CENTRAL SUBJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE PROMOTION OF EQUITY AMONG SEXES AND HABILITATION OF WOMEN AS THE CORNERSTONE OF PROGRAMS RELATED TO POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE FORMULATION AND ENFORCING OF DEMOGRAPHIC POLICIES AS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF EVERY NATION, IN HARMONY WITH ITS LAWS AND CONFORMING TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE RIGHT OF ALL COUPLES (MAN-WOMAN) TO FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY DECIDE THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO HAVE ALL NECESSARY

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND MEANS AVAILABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR WISH.

THE ATTENTION OFFERED BY REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCLUDED, SHALL NEVER BE IMPOSED USING COERCION, EITHER PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC OR PSYCHOLOGICAL, AS THIS CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE FAMILY IS THE BASIC UNIT OF SOCIETY, AND AS SUCH, HAS RIGHTS TO RECEIVE AMPLE PROTECTION AND SUPPORT.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ORIENTED TOWARDS FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN PERSONALITY AND SENSE OF DIGNITY, AND SHALL STRENGTHEN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES.

CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE CARE AND SUPPORT FROM THEIR PARENTS, THEIR FAMILY AND SOCIETY, AND BE PROTECTED AGAINST ALL KIND OF INJURIES OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ABUSE, NEGLECT, MISTREATMENT OR EXPLOITATION, SEXUAL ABUSE INCLUDED.

AMONG THE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS REACHED IN THIS FIELD, WE CAN MENTION:

THE REVISION AND ACTUALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY IN 1988 AND IN 1993.

THE OFICIALISATION OF THE FIVE YEAR HANDBOOK AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE MATERNAL-INFANTILE INTEGRATED NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD 1992 1996.

THE CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL FAMILY SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE ATTENTION FOR THE FAMILY, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE

ELDERLY.

THE FORMULATION AND APPROVAL OF THE FAMILY CODE AS A LEGAL INSTRUMENT TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTEGRAL PROTECTION FOR THE FAMILY.

THE CREATION OF AN INSTITUTE FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS, AIMING TO ENFORCE AND WATCH THE COMPLIANCE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON ATTENTION TO MINORS IN THE TERRITORY, AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH INTEGRAL ATTENTION.

THE CREATION OF A TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE AS A HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY.

THE WIDENING AND DECENTRALIZATION OF THE MATERNAL-INFANTILE AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, WITH ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE FREE CHOICE OF THE COUPLE

THE PREPARATION OF THE ORDERING AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT LAW BILL, SOON TO BE MOTIONED BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR ANALYSIS AND APPROVAL.

THE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA AND ACTION PLANS.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAW BILL.

THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAW RILL.

THE ATTENTION TO THE UPROOTED, DEMOBILIZED AND REPATRIATED POPULATION, CAUSED BY THE RECENTLY PASSED ARMED CONFLICT, AND THEIR INTEGRATION TO

SOCIETY THROUGH THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PLAN.

THE INCLUSION OF EDUCATION ON POPULATION IN THE SYLLABI OF BASIC EDUCATION.

THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIOVISUAL AND PRINTED MATERIAL, AS WELL AS TEACHING GUIDES FOR USAGE IN THE SCHOOLS FROM 1ST TO 9TH GRADES, AND THE TRAINING OF 80% OF SCHOOL TEACHERS, ALL IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION ON POPULATION.

THE TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS, AT BACHELOR LEVELS, IN EDUCATION ON POPULATION; A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF MASSIVE CAMPAIGNS FOR DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON POPULATION, ON ITS PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.

THE REALIZATION OF A NATIONAL CENSUS ON POPULATION AND DWELLINGS, AND ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS ON POPULATION, AS WELL AS SEVERAL STUDIES AND RESEARCHES ON SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC SUBJECTS.

THE PERMANENT SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAMS THAT FIGHT POVERTY.

AS THE XXI CENTURY IS APPROACHING, WE CONSIDER POPULATION AS THE MAIN WEALTH OF NATIONS, AND THE ENGINE FOR DEVELOPMENT ITSELF; FOR THIS REASON, EL SALVADOR IS INCREASING MANYFOLD THE EFFORTS TO POTENTIATE THIS RESOURCE AND MAKE IT A DETERMINING FACTOR OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE GLOBAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IS TO OFFER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL SALVADORANS TO SATISFY THEIR NEEDS, AS THE ONLY WAY TO ATTAIN .SOCIAL PEACE.

FINALLY, WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT BEFORE THIS WORLD COMMUN1IY,

TOWARD ESTABLISHING POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, IN AGREEMENT TO
OUR LAWS, OUR VALUES, PRINCIPLES, TRADITIONS AND REALITIES, TO
STRENGTHEN RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN BEING, INSURE THE ENJOYMENT OF
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE SATISFACTION OF BASIC NEEDS, COMPATIBLE WITH
INTIMATE DIGNITY AND THE EMINENT POSITION OF HUMANITY IN THE WORLD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.