

Intervención del Maestro Gabriel Torres Espinoza, Vicerrector Ejecutivo de la Universidad de Guadalajara, en el inicio de las teleconferencias “Culturas en Diálogo” auspiciadas por la UNESCO y la Universidad Católica de Lovaina, Bélgica, Septiembre 27 del 2007, Videosala Mariano Otero del CUCSH.



Ladies and gentleman, teachers, students, professors, researchers, and audience present in the different receiving classrooms,

Friends all:

Good morning to our audience in America, good afternoon friends in Europe.

In name of the General Rector of the University of Guadalajara, Master Carlos Jorge Briseño Torres, I have the honor of greeting you and giving you our enthusiasm for being part of this *Dialogue between Cultures*.

In name of each and all of the more than 187 thousand students that today receive education at the University of Guadalajara, a university that is public, free, lay, and with a great sense of social responsibility towards the community from which it originated and is essential part of, I congratulate the Cathedra UNESCO “towards a - -

sustainable peace”¹, for this important effort that allows us to reach new horizons of audience.

We are sure that these exercises of communication and collective reflection will enrich our personal and professional lives and help us better understand the reality of our present and future as nations, as people and as citizens of the world.

¹ Fuente: <http://www.onlineunesco.org/>

The subject that brings us together today is, without a doubt, one of the great matters of our generation and a critical subject for our posterity, because the prospect of a fair and worthy peace is the greatest yearning of humanity.

Men and women of our generation have witnessed the more and more intense and strong contradictions of a world that advances in giant steps in some aspects, but is staying behind in others as important for the life of all human beings.

On one side, societies in the entire planet have advanced in their technical and scientific development and in the consolidation of democracy, moreover its merely electoral conceptions.

However, and herein the great challenge for all, the world at the same time seems to walk back in the fight against economic and gender inequality, discrimination, and violence.

The permanent task to build a more fair and prosperous world is an act for peace. There is no place for peace where there is misery, injustice and authoritarianism.

There is no place for peace where dissident voices are repressed, where doors are closed at those that think differently, where plurality is a cause of confrontation and not a source of cultural richness, where there is no yield of accounts to those being governed rejecting to act and govern with the principles of transparency.

We cannot speak of the existence of peace, nonetheless the existence of the most basic and elementary justice, when the advantages of the competed and competitive global economic world, that no longer recognizes borders, cannot be seen in the least way in the pockets of those who with their sweat and effort fill the banking accounts of the great corporations, whereas within the - - -

social space closest to any human being, our families, speaking of education, health, feeding is seen as a chimera.

For the University of Guadalajara, peace and justice can only be achieved according to the degree that each Nation assumes with our destinies, necessarily and indispensably, interbound, in the extent that we assume ourselves as citizens of the World that have common responsibilities, as is the care of the environment, and we stop seeing ourselves as social examples, in vain, by imposition or for economic interests, by other nations in the World.

Friends:

I wish to share with you a small, but at the same time profound reflection on these matters.

Not so long ago I heard an interview in with an afghan indicated that his creed was to be Muslim, but that his true religion was the Human Rights.

This small and simple expression, along with other multiple reasons, reinforced what as an academic has been clear to me all my life: That above all political creed y creed differences, peace and justice can be achieved, to medium term, when we give these concepts a value sacred and undisputable to all.

The only fundamentalism that we should have in all societies is that of obtaining peace, justice and prosperity.

There's no doubt that the Universal Cultures Forum in Monterrey is a great opportunity for reflection, from the conscience of society, and particularly from conscience inside the university classrooms, upon this problem which concerns the whole world and especially Latin America.

Many decades of violence and civil war in our nations left painful lessons regarding the indispensable construction of a lasting and sustainable democracy in the region.

A democracy that is based on justice, principle and lawfulness. A democracy that respects differences and strengthens unity. A democracy that opens the way for the exercise of freedom without adjectives.

Since there is no better or shorter path towards peace and justice other than education, we at the University of Guadalajara, have a clear vocation for this peaceful, just and dignified society for everyone.

Because of this, through education and the generation and application of a culture of knowledge, we promote the construction of a society that shares democracy, justice and liberty.

We welcome reflection and proposals for sustained peace in America and the world.

We welcome the ideas regarding the role of the superior education in this labor.

We welcome the words and ideas as a way to solve conflicts. We welcome the spirit and soul of the *Dialogue between Cultures*. The University of Guadalajara joins with great interest the reflection and dialog towards the construction of peace, promotion of development and defense of the universal rights of humanity.

We salute this initiative and congratulate the UNESCO Flemish Foundation and the University of Louvain, and the Flemish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as all participant institutions.

We wish that this is the first of many dialogs between ourselves, and that the ideas and reflections of this exercise be useful towards the promotion of an authentic culture in favor of a just, dignified and lasting peace for all.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS.