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Agenda item 8

General debate

Letter dated 29 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of Chile in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Luis Arce Catacora, on 23 September 2021, at the seventy-sixth regular session of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Milenko **Skoknic Tapia**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Reply of Chile to the statement made by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Luis Arce, on 23 September 2021, at the seventy-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

In his statement at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia referred to bilateral relations with Chile.

In exercise of the right of reply, my delegation wishes to make it clear that the comments of the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia have no legal basis and are not supported by the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 1 October 2018.

The Republic of Chile regrets that a multilateral forum has been used to refer to issues that pertain exclusively to the bilateral relationship between Chile and Bolivia and have nothing to do with the General Assembly of the United Nations, which does not have the authority to deal with the aspiration expressed by President Arce.

In this regard, Chile wishes to state the following:

Chile reiterates that Bolivia does not have a “right to obtain a free, sovereign and useful outlet to the Pacific Ocean”. This alleged right was not accorded to Bolivia by the International Court of Justice, nor does it have any basis in its relations with Chile.

Chile rejects the unilateral interpretation of an isolated paragraph of the judgment referred to by Bolivia. The International Court of Justice did not call upon or urge the parties to take any specific course of action. On the contrary, it issued a judgment recognizing the freedom of sovereign States to address issues of concern to them in their political relations with others.

Furthermore, it is clearly stated in the judgment concerning the dispute brought before the Court by Bolivia that Chile does not have and has never had an obligation to negotiate sovereign access to the sea for Bolivia and that there is no legal basis for the claim that it does have such an obligation.

The Republic of Chile would like to state that the judgment of 1 October 2018 completely and definitively resolves the dispute between the two States and leaves no prior disagreements pending on this matter.

In conclusion, the Government of Chile calls on its Bolivian counterpart to focus on a constructive future relationship that takes into account the true and shared interests of our peoples.

Chile reiterates that it has always had an interest in maintaining the best bilateral relations with Bolivia, on the basis of full respect for international law and taking into consideration existing treaties. This intention is demonstrated by the continuous commitment of Chile to promoting integration through specific actions and in developing an agenda around projects of mutual interest. This has been realized through the bilateral dialogue that resumed with the initiation of the Road Map on 30 April 2021. Creating a space for dialogue and bilateral cooperation is imperative in order to make progress towards the gradual normalization of relations between our countries.