



**Presentation of the Costa Rican Priorities for its Chairmanship of the
Human Security Network 2009-2010**

**Address by H.E. Pilar Saborio de Rocafort
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On behalf of the membership of the Human Security Network and as incoming Chair, Costa Rica would like to express its appreciation to our Irish colleagues for their work and dedication as Chair of the Network during the last year. We praise the efforts of our distinguished host country for giving us the opportunity to discuss the relevance and potential of the concept of Human Security. This Network, envisioned ten years ago, has provided a platform for the debate of the most pressing issues that affect the human dimension of security concerns in different parts of the world. Together with the continued cooperation and support of all the other members of the Network, we shall continue to boost those ideals that this Network seeks to advance and implement.

The Human Security Network is truly a cross-regional space where every member can contribute with ideas and actions towards the fulfillment of our common goals. Building upon the work carried out by the Irish Chairmanship on the stock-taking exercise and bearing in mind the concerns expressed by all members of the Network regarding the importance of revitalizing our Network, Costa Rica accepts the mandate to implement this exercise during the next Chairmanship.

In doing so, we are looking forward to working together with all the members, in order to move this process one step further towards an overall review of our strengths and weaknesses, past successes and constraints, and current challenges; in essence, a comprehensive revitalization task. Costa Rica is pleased to lead the work of the Network ten years after its creation by Norway and Canada. It is important to recognize that a comprehensive approach of security needs to include its human dimension. The concept and real applicability of human security become instrumental in neutralizing the constant threats against basic human rights. Human security must be a protective shield to defend those in need of shelter against unjust causes of violence.

As Costa Rica embarks on this new path, our working plans will seek to design innovative approaches to enhance the sustainability and far-reaching significance of the Network. There are clearly issues, working methods and short-, medium- and long-term assignments to be improved and reinvented. The Network should have well-defined priorities in order to be in a much better capacity to contribute towards preventing or solving serious international challenges.

We certainly appreciate all those reflections on our Network's past, present, and future. There is clearly a growing consensus towards conceiving human security's focus from threats to the State to the safety of the individual. In other words, the concept of human security is essential to ensure a people-centered approach. As some delegations have mentioned in the past, the notion of human security is still evolving and its universal definition has yet to be reached; nonetheless, the Network can help champion quality dialogue opportunities on the multi-dimensional nature of human society among members and non-members alike within the United Nations family. As stated in the Swiss non-paper, Human Security is further gaining importance in the international agenda, therefore claiming an urgent need and a future for the Network. As the Swiss noted, both the 10th anniversary of the Network and the need of a new medium-term work plan offer a joint opportunity for the members to find the best ways to deal with the difficulties that the Network is currently experiencing. We endorse this view and we are aware that it is a challenging and provocative task.

We come to this juncture ten years later, with ideas to share, valid concerns to express and a strong desire to validate the legitimacy of our principles and convictions. Ten years is a good moment to pause and reflect on our legacy, on our achievements and obstacles, on our successes and weaknesses, on the need we have to carefully review our actions, and on the necessity to avoid further duplication with other efforts and attempts. We feel that based on today's discussion on the current status of the Network and its main limitations, as Irlanda said earlier, the Costa Rican Chairmanship will be tasked to test and implement today's agreement with the aim to achieve the common goal of revitalizing a Network whose existence is much needed and evaluate this process at the end of our Chairmanship with all members of the Human Security Network.. Also, in deliberation with all Members of the Network, my country intends to consolidate a list of issues where the Group has been more active, in order to discuss the upcoming priorities.

In taking serious consideration of the members' concerns, my country agrees on very specific points that need to be targeted:

- Addressing how to emphasize the Network as a forum for the informal exchange of views among members and its friends.

- Embracing a true cross-regional nature of the Network where assigned responsibilities transcend one particular region.
- Engaging in a serious reflection on how the concept of human security will be related to other concepts with the idea of looking for common ground and decisive action.
- Improving the coordination and communication mechanisms at all levels within our membership, with the aim to reinforce the Network's reach and impact in the international community.
- Identifying and clarifying the emerging issues that could provide our Network with a much-needed capacity to address today's challenges.
- Assessing the varied repercussions that specific themes undertaken by different Chairs have had on our Network's weight in the international community.

Costa Rica, engaging on its new responsibility as Chair of the Network, proposes some basic steps to fulfill the Network's objectives:

- Promoting continuity to the work of the Network and thus avoiding constant shifts that take the focus away from priority areas. As suggested by many members, we also believe that a good opportunity in this regard could be the organization of an informal expert meeting discussion to clarify the links and differences between the concepts of human security and R2P.
- Sponsorship of a meeting of the Troika in order to discuss possible ways to ensure continuity and follow-up during our Chairmanship. A possible plan of action beyond the one-year term can also be discussed with the rest of the Members of the Network.
- The establishment of a better rotational system for the Chairmanship of the Human Security Network in order to improve organization and planning. Hence, the incoming Chairmanship would have sufficient time to prepare in advance.
- Using the Human Security Network as a think-tank for launching new ideas but also to play an important role with regards to the implementation of human security issues.
- Organization of a Ministerial lunch during the 64th UNGA, without affecting the capital-based nature of the Network.
- Joint statements to promote the concept of human security, raising the visibility and profile of the Human Security Network. Therefore, Costa Rica proposes full interventions on issues relevant to our work, as it used to be during the initial stages of the Network.
- Strengthening the working relationship of the Network with other partners and like-minded countries. Our intention is to work closely

- with NGOs and academia in the organization of events, as well as in the preparation of food-for-thought papers on human security issues.
- Enhancement of the use of information technologies and interactive communication, by taking advantage of the possibilities provided by the Network's website to disseminate information and the status of projects.
 - Promotion of open debates and events regarding specific issues, with an unhindered commitment to the promotion of the principles of the Human Security Network. It is essential to study the factors which threaten human security while advancing solutions aimed at further strengthening dialogue and capacity-building relating to the protection of human rights.
 - During our Chairmanship we plan to engage all relevant actors in advancing our objectives: it is a capital-based responsibility in close partnership with New York, Geneva and Vienna. The coordination of relevant events in human security or specific issues derived from it becomes a top priority. These events may include the participation in, and the organization of expert panel discussions and workshops.

In conclusion, Costa Rica is fully convinced of the mobilizing role that the Human Security Network can play in raising awareness of international problems. It is critical that, as a Network, we continue to explore the underlying determinants of human security, and in doing so, develop different strategies leading to practical solutions. Costa Rica is ready to engage in a fruitful working relationship with all member countries within next year, with the goal of encouraging dialogue and strengthening capacities to accomplish the Network's objectives.

As we enter our tenth anniversary at a time in which the planet faces monumental challenges, crucial action is required from a Network that aspires to sponsor a better world. We firmly adhere to the notion that people shall coexist with dignity and security, that their rights to a better life must be entirely guaranteed, and that their access to better opportunities should be enhanced by the recognition of their full human potential. This is in essence the goal of our Human Security Network, and Costa Rica is fully committed to preserving its relevance, magnifying its scope and extending its influence at the international level.

Thank you.