



## THE POSITION OF LATIN AMERICA 2

The Latin America would like to thank the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century for organizing the conference and discussions on various intercultural issues. It has the honor to participate and give its proposals. Moreover, the zone of Latin America would like to express its satisfaction with the second draft including some its own ideas. After the analysis of the second draft, the Latin America reflects the following statement:

### ➤ ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA AND CREATING A COMMISSION

Today the question of a worldwide language is often discussed. Should the English be a worldwide language and should it be used as lingua franca?

This question is not very appropriate because the English is already used as a worldwide language. It has a dominant role in business, political, commercial and cultural fields. Latin America supports the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to use English as an integrating language for communication among international and global institutions or whenever it is needed because English has been used already in such a way. It's a common system already. So the Latin America suggests doing business and international communication on multilateral field in English. However, on regional level Latin America proposes to be depended on the partners. Latin America declares to use the Spanish inside its zone meaning between the partners from Latin America, Mexico and Spain. Moreover, Latin America proposes to all countries to sign bilateral or multilateral agreements to make sure of using this language. In practice, all countries would have the bilateral or multilateral acts signed between each other, so the discrepancies and confusing situations would not happen

However, regarding the number of Spanish speaking population, Latin America would like to negotiate the possibility of Spanish to act as a second lingua franca in the world, because it's the mother tongue in the majority of states of Latin America and Caribbean together with





Spain. Another good example is the 12 million people learning Spanish in the European Union or the strong Spanish speaking minority in the US.

The Latin America could negotiate the idea of creating the commission to set an internationally comprehensive terminology and that would express the same meaning in all languages, however thinking that if there are the bilateral or multilateral acts (mentioned above), it will be useless to finance the institution and the money can be used in other and better way. And that is another point. The zone of Latin America will not support the idea of devoting 1% of GDP to the commission's budget. It is not really desirable act for its countries. The reason is the lack of the financial resources. The majority of these countries have to bother with a great number of problems involving poverty, low education, hunger, population growth, inequalities in the society. It is not able to finance such an institution from its own resources. However, the Latin America could negotiate about the possibility to contribute 0,2% of GDP. That is the maximum.

### ➤ RELIGION

The religion in Latin America has a strong position. In tribal societies, every man and woman used to consider themselves having some level of shamanic ability. Belief of Indians having a magic skills and need to fight against the supernal creatures is very common and traditional. The faith is the basic of their being and it is a kind of protection against the creatures. Later Spanish and Portuguese imported and spread Catholicism starting with the voyages of Columbus in 1492. The belief in God and practice of Christianity has been raising along the native belief systems. Most Latin Americans remain Roman Catholics and Hispanic traditions of family, gender relations, and social interaction continue. Catholicism became the predominant religion of Latin America. The church as an institution plays very important role for Latin-Americans. It comes from the history. The colonial administration was weak; the church became an important partner in governing. Though the new constitutional reforms cause that most Latin American countries have undergone and are still undergoing to consolidate of the separation





of church and state in most of them, the zone is prepared to negotiate the possibility to promote the secularization, however, under the certain rules which would be adequate for Latin America.

The Latin America is strictly against the posing or establishing a global religion as the Catholic Church proposes (Roman Catholicism), because the region is strongly based on its religious diversity and traditions. Moreover, Latin America is against the Forum's proposal to promote unchurching. As said before, the church as an institution is a very important actor in religion. Nevertheless, the Latin America says that thanks to the promotion of the protection of human rights, there is a possibility to choose. If somebody does not want to be connected with a church and prefer individualization, it will be his option. Everyone can choose accepting the atheism as well. The Latin America will promote civil and religious liberty to its maximum imaginable extension.

As the Forum proposes to establish a system of bilateral or multilateral agreements between different religious associations and to create a fiscal system that allows citizens to devote part of their taxes as a financial support to the church they belong to, Latin America sees the difficulties with establishing this system and model of financial support. How would it work? The Latin America cannot imagine this system. It will not support the idea yet. However, the Latin America does not say that the negotiations about the stuff would not be possible.

### ➤ MULTICULTURALISM

Multiculturalism is an important feature in Latin America too. It is bound to the existence of a huge number of indigenous communities living in the area with its own culture, traditions and way of life. Another significant element of multiculturalism in this region is the immigration which allows unifying people of different races, environments and cultures and creating a platform for learning about each other and assuring better understanding.

The Latin America strongly recommends creating and maintaining favorable conditions for sustainable multiculturalism together with enhancing intercultural dialogue aimed to prevent and end conflicts caused by disparities among nations and cultures. It shares





## The Model Conference

### Cross-Cultural Issues in the Global Context

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



## Modelová konferencia

### Kultúrna sekcia

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

the proposal of Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to create a special body working under the Ministry of Culture responsible for the research how the migration and other elements influence the cultural, historical, political, educational (and etc.) scope. These results could have a strong importance for the future.

The Latin America is aware of growing interest about this issue in the world and that is why is in favor to strengthen international dialogues and to create an active international network of experts as was proposed by the Forum. The Latin America strongly supports the idea of making the bridges between cultures. It agrees to create an international entity composed of the network of experts from each country. These experts would cooperate with non-governmental organizations, scholars and, also, to promote an international dialogues with the experts of other countries. The Latin America is open to provide its best experts and scholars in the particular fields of interests to take part in the debates with the aim to strengthen cooperation between nations and international dialogue. Despite all, the Latin America will not support the idea of creating a budget of the entity where each member should contribute 1,5% of GDP. There is a possibility to negotiate the proposal, however, our limit is maximum 0,5% of GDP.

The Latin America would like to thank the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century for giving a possibility to participate and to give its own proposals and believes it will be involved in the final declaration of the conference.

