

**Notes for the toast given by H.E. the President of the Republic during
the lunch hosted by the Prime Minister of Canada.**

Hyatt Hotel, Santiago, July 17, 2007

Distinguished Prime Minister, Dear Friends,

When I received the invitation to join you here today, I did not hesitate one second in accepting. Today is a day for celebrating Canada-Chile relations, and we must rise to the occasion.

There is much talk of soccer these days between Chile and Canada. Well, I would say that in our bilateral relations, our two countries have formed one single team, and we are winning this game with a score of two-nothing.

On one hand, as Prime Minister Harper has so nicely reminded us, we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of our successful Free Trade Agreement. We have multiplied trade, surpassing 1.7 billion dollars in exchange, while Canada has come to rank as Chile's largest foreign investor in 2006.

And so, one-nothing.

But we continue attacking on all fronts. With a good defensive line, good midfielders and wing runs along the flanks. Thanks to that vision, this morning the Prime Minister and I signed a Framework Partnership that transforms us into long-term partners committed to working jointly in our region and in the world.

Two-nothing. And that is why we are celebrating.

Because today we enter a new phase that goes beyond the strictly economic and commercial realm. These 10 years of joint efforts have generated mutual understanding, trust and friendship, allowing us to place our relationship on a higher level and propose the setting of more ambitious goals.

If we have learned anything in this era of great opportunities, yet also turbulent and often dramatic moments that clash with our conscience, it is that cooperation among *like-minded countries* is essential for us to effectively address the great dilemmas facing humanity in the coming decades.

Both Canada and Chile, Mr. Prime Minister, believe in free trade and the opening of global markets, but we also wish to build an international order

of peace, fairer and more inclusive, for those still on the fringes of globalization's opportunities.

The Secretary General of the United Nations said it just a few days ago: there are 908 million people in the world still living on less than a dollar a day. That is an unacceptable and untenable reality that demands that we work together.

Canada's experience, in this regard, is exemplary. You have achieved an advanced degree of development, with an economy open to the world, high levels of social cohesion, and universal benefits for your citizens.

In Chile we are working from a similar perspective, where progress and social justice go hand in hand.

Our GDP this year will reach 14 thousand dollars in purchasing power parity. For 16 years we have been growing at average rates of 5.5 per cent, and this year we will grow at an even higher rate.

But we have grown with equality. We reduced poverty from 38.6 per cent in 1990 to 13.7 per cent in 2006.

Seven out of every ten students attending an institute of higher learning represent the first generation to do so in their family.

This progress we have achieved is also due to the fact that we Chileans have been able to reach agreements on the major topics of the national agenda, on the implementation of high-quality public policies, and the proper functioning of our institutions.

But we are not satisfied. We are going on the offensive, as I said at the beginning.

There is much to do, and that is why my government is implementing policies that will allow Chile to maintain sustained growth, through investment and innovation and human capital, while creating a system of social protection for all citizens.

Along with that, Chile is committed on a global level. We have created the most extensive network of trade agreements in the world, and now aim to transform that trade network into an increasingly dense network of solid political ties with Latin America, North America and Europe, as well as Asia Pacific, just as we are doing today with Canada.

Chile has the will to ensure that, beginning now, our status as partners will allow us to more effectively contribute to generating the necessary global public assets to strengthen globalization's governance.

I read an article in a British newspaper several days ago by German sociologist Ulrich Beck. He used a very accurate concept: *Cosmopolitics*, in other words, the need for coordination and intertwining of policies from different countries in order to address the great challenges of the 21st century.

Let us consider, for example, challenges such as climate change, democracy building, protection of human rights, elimination of poverty and exclusion, trade distortions, global expansions of certain pandemics, threats to peace and international security, transnational organized crime, and natural disasters.

Each of these challenges requires, now more than ever, global, harmonious and cooperative public policies among nations.

In the face of these and other challenges, Canada and Chile wish to make a significant contribution, based on the principles and values shared by our peoples: international solidarity, promotion of democracy and human rights, respect for international law, and strong and democratic multilateral institutions.

Our great task, undoubtedly, is to contribute to creating inclusive global governance, where the interests of countries great and small, rich and poor, are represented, with policies that in the end allow us to join forces to tackle the great challenges facing us today, policies that in large part will determine the type of world in which our children and grandchildren live.

Chile and Canada, as suits our best traditions, have a commitment to creating new global governance, and I am sure that we will prove ourselves worthy of the occasion as we embark upon a new phase of the bilateral relationship today.

As such, my dear Prime Minister Harper, your visit comes at the perfect time, in regard to both the tasks pending on the bilateral agenda, as well as the joint work ahead of us on regional and global levels.

Let us continue to play as a team, with Canada, Chile and all of the Americas. Let us continue thinking of sustainable development, socially and environmentally. Let us continue thinking big.

And so I say, once again, welcome to Chile, Prime Minister.

Canada, welcome to Latin America.

Thank you very much.