

Notes for the statement to the press by H.E. the President of the Republic together with the Prime Minister of Canada.

La Moneda Presidential Palace, July 17, 2007

- I would like to welcome you, Prime Minister Harper, and your delegation, and express my personal satisfaction and that of my government in having you conduct this official visit.
- The Prime Minister and I have had a very positive, productive meeting. The primary topic has been our decision to take the bilateral relationship into a new phase, a phase of Partnership, by establishing a Partnership Framework between Canada and Chile.
- Our relationship has matured and we need to take a qualitative step forward.
- Chilean-Canadian relations are based on very deep affinities. We have the same calling for democracy, respect for human rights, freedom, solidarity, and equality.
- Our two countries agree, as well, on our visions and policies regarding the hemisphere –or region– that we share, and regarding the way in which we must face global challenges, especially the strengthening of multilateralism.
- This is why we have grown stronger as two nations with a very high degree of affinity, or in other words, as like-minded countries.
- Our friendship has a long history. How can we forget, for example, the solidarity of the Canadian people toward those of us Chileans who were exiled during the dictatorship? And how can we forget Canada's significant support in re-establishing our democracy?
- But today we are also celebrating the present. We celebrate 10 years of successful implementation of the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement.
- Today it may seem like just one more FTA in our vast network of agreements. But ten years ago, in 1997, Canada was the first country in the developed world to believe in Chile and commit to us. Looking back

over these 10 years, I would like to acknowledge the vision of former President of the Republic Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle.

- This agreement has been a success. Between 1997 and 2006 our trade exchange rose by 215 per cent, and will continue to rise. In 2006 commercial exchange reached nearly 1.8 billion US dollars.
- Canadian companies have invested over 11 billion dollars in Chile. In fact, in 2006 Canada ranked as our top investor, with over 1.8 billion dollars, or roughly 57 per cent of investments made that year.
- Due to the importance of this topic in our relationship, I am happy to announce that we will shortly be signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding that will allow us to continue promoting investment.
- I also wish to announce that Canada and Chile have reached an agreement on the financial services chapter, the only chapter of the free trade agreement whose negotiation was still pending. With this, for example, the agreement affords Canadian institutions wishing to operate in Chile the same conditions of equality as institutions from other countries such as the United States. Likewise, Canada commits to treating Chilean enterprises operating in Canada in the same way as American and **Canadian** companies are dealt with under the NAFTA framework.
- And so, we spoke of a history of affinity and a history of commercial success. Because of these shared achievements, today we take a new step in the relationship.
- That is why we wanted to organize this visit, and announce jointly that Canada and Chile have decided to sign the Partnership Framework.
- Beginning today, we are building a long-term partnership to work together beyond the strictly commercial realm, on regional and global issues, on a bilateral relationship that will extend to all areas, and produce very concrete results.
- In the **bilateral sphere**, the Partnership Framework will open up extremely important areas of cooperation in innovation, science and technology, the environment, climate change and conservation of fresh water, and agriculture.

- For example, we will unite efforts to stop global warming, conducting joint studies on the evolution of our glaciers. We are both polar countries, a fact that takes on renewed importance in the context of international climate change efforts and International Polar Year.
- We will also work together to achieve increased sustainable development of our natural resources. This will translate into trade promotion, investment in renewable and efficient energies, and strengthening of cooperation in labour, culture and modernization of the state.
- I would like to highlight that within this Partnership Framework we will put into practice a Youth Mobility Program allowing approximately one thousand young people from our countries to travel between Canada and Chile each year, with a visa authorizing them to work, study or simply experience the other country.
- The agreement will have particular importance in the **global and regional sphere** of our foreign policy, as it establishes regular and privileged consultations at the UN, WTO, in the OAS and in APEC, among other multilateral institutions, and strengthens triangular cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean.
- My conversation with the Prime Minister was especially productive in this regard. We share similar causes. Both of our countries want the United Nations to become stronger and more efficient and democratic; we both support the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and agree on the need to increase efforts worldwide to stop global warming; we are striving to reach the Millennium Development Goals; we both want international trade to be fair and free; and we want a safer world, free of terrorism, a world in which the heart of our work is our people.
- We also agree on important regional and hemispheric issues. We will work to strengthen the OAS and, most especially, democracy and equality in the Hemisphere.
- Finally, I must point out that Haiti figured prominently in our conversation. We both agree on the importance of successfully

completing the stabilization initiated by MINUSTAH and decisively supporting the government of President René Préal.

- Definitively, this has been a great visit. The dialogue was frank and productive. It was a dialogue of the future between countries who share values and visions; like-minded countries whose actions are founded in democracy, progress and social justice.
- It is satisfying for Chileans to walk this path together with Canada, a nation of friends, and I am certain we shall continue to follow this path through the new Partnership Framework, strengthening even further our bilateral relations.

Thank you very much.