

Statement of the Secretary General of the Club de Madrid and former Primer Minister of Canada, Kim Campbell.

Speech by Kim Campbell
Executive Secretary, Club of Madrid

Muchas gracias.
Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I want, first of all, to thank the government of Chile for this extraordinary successful meeting, and particularly to thank President Lagos, Foreign Minister Mr. Walker, and Ambassador Portales, for the great courtesy that they have shown to the members of the Club of Madrid in our engagement with this meeting, and also particularly to thank former President Eduardo Frei and his Foundation for helping to make our visit so successful.

Some of you may have been wondering, what is this Madrid Club, and who are these people in the Club of Madrid?

The Club of Madrid is an organization that was formed out of an international conference on democratic transition and consolidation, in Madrid in the autumn of 2001. And, although it brought together almost a hundred of the world leading scholars, from twenty- two countries on that particular subject, it also brought together the largest group of current and former Presidents and Prime Ministers ever convened by a private organization. Thirty-four current and former Presidents and Prime Ministers.

And what was so interesting was the chemistry between the current and former leaders, the candor and the ability of former leaders who no longer had an agenda, to talk very openly about their experiences. And the interest of leaders who were still in office, in hearing those experiences, and knowing that they were speaking the same language, that they understood one another's experiences.

And so, the decision was made to create an organization to continue the work, and we were incorporated under Spanish laws in May of 2002.

We now have fifty-seven members. Nine of our members have been here at the Community of Democracies meeting -many more of our members would have liked to be here- we have two Chilean members, former Presidents Aylwin and Frei; former President Pastrana of Colombia was here too, Antonio Gutierrez from Portugal, former Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley of New Zealand, Petre Roman, former Prime Minister of Romania, Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico was our member, Valentin Paniagua from Peru and myself, Kim Campbell from Canada. Many more of our members would have liked to be here, and I bring special greetings from Fernando Enrique Cardoso, our President, and Mary Robinson our vice President.

The Club of Madrid seeks to up the value of the experience, access and clout of our members in promoting democratic transitions. We, in some ways, straddle the world between governments and NGO's, because we are – although no longer in power – intimately, deeply, the function of our experiences as governmental leaders, and we work with the senior political leadership of countries who seek our advice and support. But we are independent. As members of the Club of Madrid, as former leaders, we are profoundly political people, we have all been party leaders in our own country, but our organization has no ideology. We are global, we come from all parts of the world, we represent all ranges in the political spectrum, and we try to have a balance not

only in geography and gender, but also in the experience of our leaders. We have leaders from mature democracies and those from countries where the experience of transition is more recent.

And we have one shared value, one value that unites us all, and that is our profound and deep commitment to democracy.

As I've said, we do work in countries where we are invited to provide advice. But we have also discovered that because of who we are, and what we have been, we have an extraordinary power to convene. And in March we convened in Madrid an international summit on democracy, terrorism and security. And what we found was that -because, as I say, we are independent, we represent only our experience- that we are able to provide a very interesting and safe environment, and very creative environment for people to do that kind of deliberation.

When our subject coordinators asked me at the organizing meetings in January, whether I wanted them to push for consensus, I said no. I want you to find consensus where it exists, identify where there are disagreements, and where we need more information. And what that meant was that when there was a remarkable consensus among all groups - from the most dewy-eyed civil society people, idealistic, to the most hard-nosed military intelligence and police participants - when they all agreed that terrorism cannot be confronted outside the context of the rule of law and respect for human rights, that consensus had enormous value.

The Madrid summit was a great success, the Madrid agenda was in fact put together by our members, thirty-four of whom were at the meeting, and the Community of Democracies was for us the natural place to come as the first place to present the Madrid agenda.

We have strategic partnership with the democracy coalition in Washington and, as you know, this is an organization very strongly supportive of the Community of Democracies. But what the Community of Democracies provides is a place where all of us, the very groups, -whether it is IDEA, the Club of Madrid, the Westminster Foundation, NDI, all of these groups around the world who are doing wonderful work in democracy promotion-, where we can come together, where there are government representatives, where there are NGO's, and where former government leaders, such as the Club of Madrid, can come together and trade notes, compare notes, share experiences, and help to set the agenda. Help develop our priorities.

I have often said that the Club of Madrid, we don't have the hubris that we are all that stands between democracy and chaos, we have huge respect for the work that is done for governments and organizations around the world trying to promote the development of democracy.

We are a unique organization of former leaders devoted to this purpose. But we are a tile in the mosaic. And what is interesting at this meeting, is how the picture of the mosaic becomes clearer as so many of the other tiles in the mosaic came together.

And interestingly, when I was in Budapest, at the meeting where we discussed the creation of the Budapest Center on Democratic Transition, people there thought that perhaps that center could become the mortar in the mosaic that would help the whole of the tiles come together through the sharing of information.

So I want to say that on behalf of the Club of Madrid, we are delighted to have been here. We are very grateful for the hospitality that you've offered us, and our opportunity to participate. In early 2006, we will in fact be convening in partnership with the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics and Government at Santa Clara University in California, a major meeting on practical strategies for

anticorruption. We look forward to sharing the outcome of that particular meeting with members of the Community of Democracies, and we simply want to say that at the end of the day we know that creating democracies, sustaining democracies, has to be done within countries themselves. And you've heard what is now become the mantra: that democracy cannot be imported or exported, but must be supported. I think some clever person should put a tune to that and it could be our anthem and our theme song.

But I want to say to you, on behalf of all the members of the Club of Madrid, is how pleased we are to be part of this family of organizations and governments committed to bringing the benefits of democracy to all the citizens of the world.

Democracy is not perfect, Winston Churchill was right when he said "its the worst form of government, except for all he others", but it offers the greatest promise for the development, as we say in French l'épanouissement, the flowering of human potential.

It is demanding, it is never over, it is a process. My own country is going through some very interesting challenges right now, there is never a day when you can go to bed and pull the covers over your head and say "We've solved all the problems, our democracy will work on auto-pilot".

It is a challenge to us all, all the time, but when we come together to share what we know, to develop the rational division of labor, to cultivate our own expertise in partnership with others. I think we can make an extraordinary contribution to a world that we will all like our children and grandchildren to live in, and that is a world of human development, of justice and freedom, and democracy is the way we will get there.

And I pledge on behalf of the Club of Madrid our support, collaboration and partnership in this effort.

Thank you so much.