**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF CONSULS EAST ASIA REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING NO.5 NOVEMBER 28, 2016 AT PENANG, MALAYSIA**

Thank to Honorable Mr. Vincente Carlos, Chairman of East Asia Regional Committee,

Honorable Dato’ Haji Abdul Rafique Bin Abdul Karim, Chairman of Honorary Consular Corps Malaysia,

Honorable Dato’ Shaik Ismail Allaudin, Organizing Chairman of 4th FICAC East Asia Consular Conference,

Honorable Ayub Junus,

Honorable Sukhenetz and all colleagues from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand,

I had a chance to participate to sightseeing tour yesterday. Highly urbanised and industrialised, Penang is one of the most developed and economically important states in Malaysia, and is a thriving tourist destination. Penang offers a compelling blend of cuisine, culture and luxury with diving, hiking and edge-of-the-map relaxation all vital reasons to visit. Thanks to an influx of private and public investment and creative energy — precipitated in part by Unesco’s 2008 listing of Penang’s capital city, George Town, as a World Heritage site.

I would like to present our activities in 1 year period;

* BOD1, Istanbul

I visited H.E. Didier Reynders, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Belgium in his office with Belgium Consular Union; we discussed about the Consular affairs of FICAC all around the world.

* BOD2, the 2nd Meeting of FICAC Board of Directors was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in February, 2016. H.E. Danilo Medina Sanchez, President of the Dominican Republic, was awarded with the FICAC Gold Star, the highest FICAC Honour in recognition of the excellent work of world leaders and awarded to heads of States. FICAC Directors were received by H.E. Andrés Navarro García, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic. The gala dinner was organized with Members of the Consular Corps accredited in Dominican Republic at the residence of Hon. Mrs. Sonia Villanueva de Brouwer, Dean and Honorary Consul of Monaco.
* Met with

DOMINIC REPUBLIC: H.E. Danilo Medina Sanchez, President of the Dominican Republic; H.E. Andrés Navarro García, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic; H.E. Mr. César Dargam, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic; ​H​.E. José del Castillo Saviñó, Minister of Industry and Commerce; H.E. Edgar Mejía, Minister of Energy and Mining

PANAMA: H.E. Isabel St. Malo, Panama Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Rafael Pino-Pinto, Governor of Panama

COSTA RICA: Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, H.E. Alexander Mora

GUATEMALA: Minister of Economy of Guatemala, H.E. Ruben Morales Monroy

In March, I visited

JAMAICA: Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith – Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade (MFAFT); Ambassador Paul Robotham, CD, JP – Permanent Secretary, MFAFT.

ST.KITTS AND NEVIS: Prime Minister Dr.​ The ​Honorable​ ​Timothy Sylvester Harris; The Hon. Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs

BARBADOS: Senator The Hon. Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

* BOD3, The 3rd FICAC Board of Directors meeting was held in New York, USA, in May, 2016. FICAC Directors paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of UN General Assembly, at his office. FICAC, recognized by United Nations as NGO with ECOSOC status, H.E. Mr. Oh Jooh, UN ECOSOC President, welcomed FICAC Directors at his office.

In the following, you will find 17 sustainable development goals.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

We had our BOD meeting at the Brooklyn Law School. We met Vice President of Borough Promotion NYC & Company and Former Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz. FICAC Directors visited Brooklyn Borough Hall and met with Mr. Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Borough President.

FICAC signed Partnership Agreement with Interlegal in NY.

* On the 29th of September, 2016, FICAC Board of Directors visited the International Chamber of Commerce in Belgium. Mr. Mathieu Maes, Secretary General of ICC Belgium and Mrs. Julie Deré, Executive Assistant, welcomed the delegation for a fruitful meeting.

A FICAC delegation, including Members of the Board of Directors and Observers, visited UNRIC on the 29th of September, 2016. This meeting was a great opportunity to discuss many common priorities, especially regarding the UN Agendan 2030 with 17 Sustainable Development Goals, fully supported by FICAC as UN NGO with ECOSOC Status.

We were welcomed by UNRIC Director, Mrs. Deborah Seward.

As first steps to a future partnership, it was agreed that

1) UNRIC will provide FICAC with existing information and promotional material on the SDGs in all the languages available as to be used by FICAC for its outreach activities

2) A UN Staff Member in New York and another UN Staff Member in Brussels will be designed as the contact persons for discussing the future partnerships with FICAC on the important issues of Agenda 2030.

Hon. Baron Ernest de Laminne de Bex, Honorary Consul of Georgia in Belgium and President of “Cercle International Diplomatique et Consulaire” (CIDIC), organized a Cocktail at his Ophem Castle for FICAC Directors and Observers to meet with CIDC Members and several resident Ambassadors in Belgium, accompanies by their spouses.

* Our next Board meeting will take place in Malta on 10-11 February 2017. H.R.H. Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite organize the 2nd International Day of Women and Girls in Science and as FICAC, Women in Diplomacy Committee, we are going to participate this event.

Women in Diplomacy Committee work together with the H.R.H. Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite for this event. Thank you Asif A Chowdhury for the organization to invite to the Ambassador Professor Selina Mohsin to come to Malta Conference as Speaker. We are still searching availability of couple names.

* The 7th FICAC horse racing event was held at the Ankara 75. Yıl race course. The annual FICAC race fulfills an important role to promote and support collaboration, cooperation and friendship among the countries by bringing together Ambassadors, Career Consuls and Honorary Consuls who are essential for international relations and diplomacy.
* New member: Uganda, Chile, Tunisia
* Our chairman North Africa Region: Hon. Jelil Bouraoui who is working on to bring new members
* FICAC CC: 15.-$ ; pins are available
* FICAC ID: 15.-$ ; we decided to prepare ID Cards to be beneficial for our members.
* Website is updated. We are very excited to announce you all that a brand new FICAC website is in the work. We are looking forward to enrich our website with brand new features and a new design. The old website will keep functioning as is until the new website is launched.
* UN ECOSOC Status: Roaster to Special Status. We would like to upgrade our status from Roaster to Special.

H.E. Frederic Musiiwa Macamure Chava, Ambassador of Zimbabwe is actual ECOSOC President.

Members: Turkey, Greece, Israel, ABD, Pakistan, India, Iran, China, Azerbaijan , Russia, South Africa, Sudan, Burundi, Gina, Mauritania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba are the ECOSOC Committee are. We need that our colleagues to get contact their MFA’s to support our aim.

* Foreign Ministers - FICAC Forum

To achieve this goal, we need your support by asking your own Minister of Foreign Affairs to be part of this group.

* Next Special Committee is Security and Consular Privileges Protection, Honorable Colleague Demosthenis Z. Severis presented in report the key issues: We can organize Geneva, Vienna, Brussels or Lausanne (Interpol is located those places.)
* We decided to visit His Holiness Pope Francis and now we are waiting a reply.
* What we need, what we do?

Dear Colleagues, we need that our colleagues to be involved much more to our work, to our meetings. We need your suggestions. All of us are in very difficult period: Middle-East problems, North Korea etc. At this time, the world is needed diplomats who have qualities of cooperation, goodwill, friendship, health, serenity, love, happiness, patience, tolerance, success and peace.