

I have a dream: Obama, President of the United States!

*"I say to you today my friends, that even though
we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow,
I still have a dream ..."*

Martin Luther King, August 28, 1963

I dreamed that the dream of Martin Luther King had become a reality. I dreamed that at last women and men, black and white, young and old were capable of living in the United States in peace, with an African-American president. Without prejudice. Without prejudice and motivated by the candidate's keywords: "Change", "Hope", "Together we can"...

With Obama the American dream of Martin Luther King and Kennedy can become a reality. Equal dignity for all human beings! "Now is the time", said Martin Luther King during the March on Washington on August 28, 1963, "to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood". The people of the United States know that the time for brotherhood has come.

Time of crisis, time of opportunities. Senator Obama has the temperament, rigor and vision that are needed in these times of upheaval and confusion.

Obama represents change, a new paradigm, but also a new style, a new way of facing challenges, guided by ethical values and democratic principles, the same opportunities, effort, illusion, capacity ...

Obama, African-American, citizen of the world, aware of all of the global village, and not only of its most prosperous neighborhoods.

Those who wield public power, who in a few hours "rescued" those who have caused the financial crisis with funds that were not available for years to promote endogenous development in exploited countries, to fight AIDS, hunger and poverty, or to help the

victims of the crisis ... now need new leadership pointing the way down new paths toward other forms of government.

As Maimonides in his "Guide for the Perplexed", to lead the world's most powerful nation we need someone who inspires respect and confidence, and who has the necessary capacity and personnel to take advantage of this historic occasion of radical change to transform the people of the United States and the whole world into citizens.

"Let's focus on jobs", said Barack Obama during his last debate with John McCain on October 15. "I want to end the tax breaks for companies shipping jobs overseas and provide a tax credit for every company that's creating a job right here in America ... (and) help families right away", people ... It is they who need protection. "Exxon Mobil, which made \$12 billion, record profits, over the last several quarters can afford to pay a little more" to its employees, he added in response to another question.

We are only discussing the financial crisis, without mentioning closely related crises affecting energy, food sources, the environment... We need a change of course, but not one led by the economists who have already failed, but rather by those who are guided by the reality of a well-rounded world capable of reacting, due to the distinctive creative capacity of all human beings.

In the words of Lluís Bassets, "a new President for radically-new times". A new President for a new era that is dawning with the failure of an economic system that has excluded and alienated, preferring plutocracy (G-6/G-7) over the multinational and democratic system of the United Nations, which must now face deep reforms, including the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank "for Reconstruction and Development", so that they may fulfill the missions for which they were created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.

Colin Powell has said that "he will be an exceptional President", "because of his ability to inspire, because of the inclusive nature of his campaign..." Because he knows how to convince the American people and the world that the United States is on the way to renewal! Renewal! The United States and the whole world.

Once again, democratic values. Once again, hope. Once again, inventing the future. Once again, involvement of the younger generations. Once again, assurance that “Together we can!” Once again, freedom.

Martin Luther King ended his “I have a dream” speech by saying “when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Christians, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Obama no longer runs the risk of being accused of having “revolutionized” a system that clearly requires profound and urgent change. He cannot be accused of having changed what only a few months ago the inventors and beneficiaries of globalization and the market economy continued to support as the great solution. (In that regard, recent images of certain politicians suddenly seem ridiculous). Obama has arrived on the scene at a moment in which almost everyone desires a new model. And, in contrast to the inertia, he represents merit, capacity for renewal and solidarity.

We need new leaders for new times, with great transitions. From the force of power to the power of the word. From a culture of violence and war to a culture of dialogue, conciliation and peace. Great crises, great opportunities.

We can no longer wait in resignation. The time to peacefully but firmly call for a “human rescue” has come. We must all be Rosa Parks, the African-American civil rights activist. We must refuse to give up our seat (she on the bus, we in the world), so that we can arrive as soon as possible at our destination in that other world, which we so fervently desire.

I had a dream. I dreamed the dream of Martin Luther King: the dream of equality, of justice and freedom. Obama, African-American, President of the United States!

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

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