

mr president of the  
general assembly mr secretary general  
united nations ladies and gentlemen  
almost two  
years ago the world completely changed  
it affected all countries  
nations across the globe it affected the  
rich the poor the big ones  
the small ones  
the developed  
and those that were not  
and added to that  
there was no plan  
and every country  
dealt with the pandemic with different  
formula  
and the results are known

there have  
been many different countries  
with variations and  
yet similar approaches covid  
showed  
and revealed both weaknesses and  
strengths  
it's worthwhile  
to acknowledge the great work of the  
scientists and the researchers  
the great work of the health care system  
that was overwhelmed  
the great work of teachers and  
professors  
who  
devised ways to try and provide  
education in some way

work

changed in a unique way in the form in

which it was done

in short

humanity showed its capacity

to adapt

and survive a crisis of such dimensions

and let me say

that that's the best version that we're

living

as the counterpart to all of that too

it

revealed the inequities

the differences

the inequities structurally in each

countries the ineff the ethical issues

and

vocations of liberty of different  
societies and governments our country  
uruguay  
has an immense democratic  
vocation and very much values individual  
freedom  
freedom as the most pure state of the  
individual  
and what has been shown  
in this pandemic  
is that what was lacking  
was because of unequal access to the  
tools  
and that meant  
that freedom can be enjoyed in different  
ways  
and what

has landed with a thud is this false  
dichotomy between the presence of the  
state and individual  
freedom  
and more  
those countries  
where the state did a good job of  
protecting  
and protected the most  
vulnerable individuals and gave them  
access to the tools they needed to be  
able to exercise their freedom  
and that's why it seems to me  
that we take a moment here and think  
about this  
of course here what we're talking about  
is the internal policies in each of our

countries

but there are international connotations

or repercussions

we cannot conceive of freedom without

conceiving of it with responsibility and

solidarity

each and every one of us

in our environment

in uruguay in my country

the people

showed that with the use of responsible

freedom

we were able to manage an important or

significant part of the pandemic without

any major

reversals the solidarity of the

community was present in many great acts

but we could also see it reflected  
in acts unknown to the larger public  
but ones which had a positive impact  
in at the international level  
where we countries participated  
in one way or another and we trusted  
part of our development  
to that community  
here we need to be clear  
and especially with regard to vaccines  
we need to be clear  
there was a race against time to develop  
the vaccines  
it was done in record time  
and let's be careful here i don't want  
to talk about patents or formulas here  
that's not my intention i want to talk

about access

there was

a

deficit in the supply a shortage

of vaccine supply

and it was not equitable

countries had to go out each and every

country had to go out and buy for

itself

and why do i think it's important to

emphasize this

because the vaccination process is vital

we all know to recover freedom in our

countries

i'd like to mention three other elements

that impact the freedom of peoples

during the pandemic of course



governments needed to protect their  
people that was the first thing we had  
to do was protect our compatriots but  
also we needed to be aware or alert to  
the fact that that protection  
should not then become protectionism  
we needed freedom to trade  
freedom to compete  
for excellency and competition for  
access to markets our country  
is in that process now  
and it's in the process of opening up  
more to the world  
and we need  
there to be a correlation  
with all the countries  
and blocks and

great powers

also ladies and gentlemen i couldn't

stand before this forum without

speaking

about the violation of human rights

violation of human rights by governments

that belong to this organization

and we're clear that they're respectful

of the principle of non-intervention we

are respectful of that but we also need

to understand

that

we cannot remain silent about these

violations we must announce them

the

abuse of power can go to the detriment

of freedom

there are countries where the  
governments fear their people and  
curtail freedom  
and they end up impoverishing their  
people  
for generations several generations and  
finally  
and this has been mentioned here by  
several heads of state  
the freedom of the future  
the health of the planet  
we've heard  
statements we've participated in  
conferences we've undertaken commitments  
now it's time  
to move to  
action and practice

and here

i need to emphasize that we need

mechanisms for financing

so that countries can have access

to and make progress with sustainable

development and protection of the

environment

i'd like to conclude

with an optimistic vision of reality

as a young

i fought thomas hobbes

the concept that man is the wolf of man

time has shown

that he was deeply wrong

hobbes

those that have not read his book i

would also recommend the book by

hans rusling factfulness

where he clearly shows

positive evolution of humanity

and

that's

why after this assembly each and every

one of us will return to our countries

to

deal with our daily tasks in the

domestic arena

but let us not lose sight of what we've

said here and what we've heard here

every action in every place in the world

involves all of us

because if there's something there's

some

lesson to be drawn from this pandemic

it is that

we are all one thank you



