

Closing Speech by Manuel Antonio Garretón, President of Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

We are closing this Congress with the deep satisfaction of having done everything our side for its success.

Thanks to Chilean authorities, academic and business communities, media, or its significant contributions. Thanks to the world community of political scientists for having given us the opportunity to organize the Congress. Thanks to so many people coming from different latitudes. Thanks to the almost 100 volunteers, specially Ignacio y Esteban, to our staff led by Sebastián and Yohanna, and Mónica and Ana María, to the Faculty of Economy and Business Convention Center of the Catholic University staff and guards, specially Verónica Garfías.

We have had 2452 participants registered, 1106 latin americans, that is 45% of the totals, 670 panels (about 2500 papers), 178 sessions of the LOC, which means about 720 papers, 126 scholarships awarded by the LOC. But these figures do not totally express other realities that has much to do with the content and quality of our discussions.

Let me remark three main contributions of this Congress. First the enormous of young scholars Second, the great presence of Latin American Students and political scientist, that show that our effort to mobilize our discipline from the region has been successful. Third, the dialogue between the academia and the political world expressed specially, among other things, in the participation of our President Michelle Bachelet.

Looking ahead let me make some brief reflexions. The main difficulties of the organization of the Congress come from the fact that there are two heads: IPSA Secretariat and the LOC. And there is a predominant centralist organizational culture without the necessary flexibility. This accounts for problems in the registering system, book program, program scheduling and the informatic systems. We should work to improve in the future the current procedures and to establish clearly the responsibilities of both actors, specially accepting that they are partners and not subordinated one to another. I think we have generated important precedents for this improvement and it has

not been easy. We have given for the future an space to LOC responsibility and creativity in program orientation. The LOC is the host, but is also a partner in this adventure and the procedures must be adecuated to the principle of equal dignity of the partners. We will contribute in the next future with a report with our evaluation and suggestions on all these matters.

The next Congress will be in Madrid. We have created these precedents for them and for its own LOC. Spain has a long tradition of universality and national creativity that will be helped with our experience.

On behalf of the LOC, the academic, private and offical institutions, again thank you very much.