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"The world needs a certain leadership to confront its current realities. We are already six billion people on Earth. It is almost certain that in only five more decades we will be 9.5 billion. It will be an enormous challenge to provide food, health care, education, employment, clothing, footwear, housing, drinking water, electric energy and transportation to such a great number of people who will live in precisely the poorest countries."

References to the original: [Speech given on the 40th Anniversary of the triumph of the Revolution, held at Céspedes Park in Santiago de Cuba on January 1st,1999](#)

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