



STALNA MISIJA CRNE GORE PRI UJEDINJENIM NACIJAMA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

---

## STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Nebojša Kaluđerović  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of  
Montenegro

at the

General Debate of the 67<sup>th</sup> session  
of the United Nations General Assembly

New York  
29 September 2012

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor to deliver these remarks on behalf of Montenegro. At the outset, allow me to address my two friends and colleagues.

I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić on his election as the President of the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. You will enjoy full cooperation and support of Montenegro in this important task. I would also like to pay tribute to H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser for his contribution to the work of the General Assembly, especially in promotion of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

I extend special appreciation to the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his efforts to promote multilateralism and joint action for ensuring peaceful, secure and prosperous world. I would especially like to reiterate our satisfaction with his recent successful visit to Montenegro, which confirmed strong partnership between the United Nations and my country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Montenegro has always been strongly committed to multilateral cooperation and respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. We have demonstrated this in our region, by promoting good-neighborly relations and regional cooperation, as well as worldwide, through affirmation and participation in global efforts for building and maintaining peace.

The High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law that preceded the General Debate once again stressed the importance of democratic governance and respect for human rights. These are preconditions for prosperity of all our citizens and society as a whole. Failure in this regard is our common concern. We therefore stress the individual responsibility of all countries to strengthen the rule of law and promote human rights, as well as the role of the United Nations in providing adequate and efficient support to these efforts. Respect for rule of law at international level, national ownership of the rule of law activities, incorporation and efficient implementation of international norms within our domestic legal systems are our key objectives.

Strengthening international partnership in maintenance and building of peace and security is crucial. As a Mediterranean country, we share the concerns of the international community for the recent developments in the South Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The scale and consequences of violence in Syria serve as a stern reminder of the importance of preventive measures in preserving international peace and security, which requires enhancement of the UN preventive capacities and the role of dialogue and mediation in peaceful conflict resolution. Montenegro strongly advocates an approach that strives towards an early prevention and elimination of threats before they evolve into sources of conflict.

Responsibility to protect and its operationalisation remain a key priority. In the era of accountability, perpetrators of crimes against humanity should not go unpunished. Countries need to demonstrate strong commitment to the rule of law, respect for human rights and freedoms, democracy and non-use of force in settling disputes.

Montenegro stands ready to increase its participation in peacekeeping operations, in accordance with its capacities and in line with international efforts. We support in particular the UN initiatives aimed at improvement of civilian protection and development of civilian capacities for maintaining stability through advancing the mandates of peacekeeping missions. In this context, we fully support the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 and strengthening the role of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

My country is firmly dedicated to the comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as the UN sanctions regime. In regard to the Global Strategy review, we fully endorse the proposal of the Secretary General to appoint the UN Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in order to improve strategic coordination, coherence and substantive implementation of the Strategy.

We strongly support global efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation, while stressing that fight against transnational threats, such as human trafficking, cyber crime, illicit drug trade, etc. require comprehensive approach.

As a multicultural country, Montenegro builds its society on principles of understanding, tolerance and mutual respect. Diversity does not divide but enrich our society. This derives from tradition and trust built throughout the long Montenegrin history. As we have recently witnessed, differences can be abused and easily turn into senseless acts of violence towards the innocent, which is unacceptable. My country therefore remains committed to promoting intercultural dialogue, tolerance and respect at all levels.

In six years after the restoration of its independence, Montenegro has achieved significant progress both in internal development and in international relations. We have very good relations with all neighbors, while the region as a whole stands before unique challenge to demonstrate that it is capable of reinforcing overall cooperation.

Montenegro actively participates in all regional processes and initiatives aimed at intensifying mutual and constructive cooperation and strengthening security and stability in South-East Europe. After turbulent past, the region is brought together by the common strategic goal of European integration. Although there are still remaining issues that need international assistance and support, we have achieved a new level of trust, development and maturity that resulted in individual progress of each country in European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Opening the EU accession negotiations in June this year and continuous progress on our Euro-Atlantic path represent strong recognition of the results achieved. We are fully focused and committed to continuing the implementation of reforms and reaching the highest international standards in the area of the rule of law, human rights and

freedoms, and democratic governance. Strengthening institutions and human capacities will reinforce our political stability and economic prosperity, which is essential in this time of ever-evolving crises that affect us all.

The progress in the integration processes does not imply the absence of problems. We attach great importance to resolving issues essential for development of our society, such as the empowerment of women, improving the position of Roma population, as well as settling the status of refugees, IDPs and other vulnerable groups.

We are fully committed to tackling these complex challenges through efficient and lasting solutions and models for better integration of every individual in the society. We are particularly aware of this when social and economic disparities are more visible and demand stronger state efforts for their elimination.

Promotion and respect for human rights are important goals set up in our internal and foreign policy agenda. We therefore fully believe that Montenegro will gain trust of the UN Member States this coming November and be elected to the Human Rights Council for the period 2013-2015. We are strongly committed to contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council and the system of protection and improvement of human rights and freedoms. Support to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, full cooperation with the Council and its Special Procedures, as well as an active promotion of human rights and freedoms at the international level in order to timely respond to situations of violation of human rights in the world, will be major guidelines for our activities in the Council.

The results of the implementation of the UN reform program *Delivering as One* speak not only in favor of the reform of the World Organization, but also in favor of an even more efficient adjustment of the UN to the development needs of a country. Montenegro achieved tangible progress in the implementation of integrated program and, to certain extent, already implements the model of joint programming as a next phase of DaO.

Strengthening national ownership, joint programming, as well as utilization of the comparative advantages of the UN agencies are fundamental principles upon which we defined program of cooperation until 2016. We will continue to support all efforts aimed at improving the UN system, its efficiency and operational activities in the field.

Mr. President,

Sustainable development, poverty reduction and economic growth, conflict and post-conflict situations, are just some of the issues that require common action. In that context, sustainable development with all its pillars stands out as our priority.

Montenegro is among countries which are on track to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we stress the importance of MDGs as a basis for defining the Sustainable Development Goals. SDGs must be central part of the global post-2015 development agenda and a clear expression of political commitment to sustainable development. We stand ready to actively contribute to shaping and determining indicators, as well as timelines for their implementation.

We believe the question of sustainable development, as well as the issue of reaching legally binding agreement on climate change within the UNFCCC, should be subject to compromise of the UN members. We therefore hope to see positive developments in Doha Conference.

Common determination, openness and willingness to reach compromise, as well as to accept reality is truly necessary in order to move forward. Commitment to fulfill the MDGs should not be neglected in spite of the difficult economic and financial situation worldwide. Eradicating poverty, partnership with civil society and the private sector that will enable achievement of sustainable energy for all by 2030, as well as Zero hunger, launched by the Secretary-General, are our key common objectives. Together we can achieve these goals!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In times when interdependence and integration are major directions in global politics, no country can handle on its own ever more demanding challenges brought by modern society. Cooperation is a prerequisite for success. I am confident that small countries like Montenegro can play an important role and be part of the solution. We remain dedicated to the principles of cooperation and mutual trust, and strongly committed to contributing to the strengthening of the UN system and its role in global governance, both at national and international level.

Before I conclude, allow me a small personal note. The first time I attended the UN General Assembly I was an Attaché of then Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia. Today, many years and three different states later, I have the privilege to stand before you as the Head of Delegation of Montenegro. The world may have changed in ways we never anticipated, but our Organization and what it stands for weathered the challenges and remained globally important and equally valuable for every single one of us.

Thank you!