



Address by
H. E. Dalia Grybauskaitė
President of the Republic of Lithuania
To the General Debate of the 69th Session of the
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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, numerous armed conflicts and instability in the world make us go back to the main purpose of the United Nations: **to keep peace throughout the world**. As member states of the United Nations, we are all committed to this core principle.

With the danger of terrorism and war spreading in the world, now is the right moment to stop and reconsider our actions and do everything possible to bring an end to the fighting, be it in your own homeland, neighbouring countries, or in your region.

1. The nature of **global security has changed dramatically**. We are witnessing non-state actors, religious fundamentalists and rebellious criminal gangs terrorising the globe and threatening the safety of peaceful people.

Sadly, some states are standing behind the terrorists and have become hubs and shelters for growing violence.

But nowadays, the **means of terror and war go far beyond the traditional conception of lethal fight**. Whatever the means of terror is used, its goal is the same – to frighten people, countries, or in some cases, the entire world.

2. Peaceful and sustainable coexistence between countries and societies is not a self-evident fact.

It requires **collective efforts and determination** as well as national commitment to a sustainable future that belongs to all of us.

Our common task as a group of nations is to **maintain undivided security** – we have to put all our efforts to stop ISIS and al-Qaeda, to keep peace and security in Middle East, but same efforts should be directed to manage the geopolitical challenges in Eastern Europe.

It is our duty to support peace, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The threat arising to Ukraine must be urgently tackled.

3. The UN together with NATO, European Union, other regional organisations and their member states should fulfil their duty and **do everything possible to stop armed conflicts, redrawing the borders of sovereign states and creating one frozen conflict after another.**

We have to act together – as a group of neighbours, a group of states, concerned about the future of the international community, a future of the world we live in.

It is very important to stop the conflict in its very beginning, to suppress the breeding grounds of terrorism.

4. But most importantly **we should never abandon the values that hold us together: respect for human rights and the fundamental principles of state sovereignty and territorial unity.**

When it comes to the protection of these basic principles, the international community should be united and responsively react to any breach of these fundamental common principles.

The fact that we are still protecting the core values is well illustrated by the voting result at the UN General Assembly concerning the armed conflict in Ukraine.

One hundred different states supported Ukraine and condemned the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

An overwhelming majority of this assembly shall never recognize the illegal acts of aggression.

5. If we fail and violence, aggression and terror win, **we are at risk to wake up on the doorstep of everyone fighting each other** and with chaos prevailing.

Everything we worked on, everything we created, the world we live in will be destroyed.

A silent consent to such brutal forms of aggression should not be the answer of the international community.

Dear Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In avoidance of an even grimmer future, I invite you to stop deception, lies, manipulation and ignorance from entering our territories and violating our values.

We have to go back to the core principle of the United Nations of keeping peace throughout the world.

Our undivided attention for the undivided security should be our main focus.