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ADDRESS

by

H.E. Dr. GJORGE IVANOV

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

at the

General Debate of the 64th Session of the

United Nations General Assembly

New York, 25 September, 2009

**Distinguished Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have a special honor and privilege, today, to address this esteemed forum and to share with you the views of the Republic of Macedonia regarding the topics of this Session but also on other current issues that concern us all, directly or indirectly.

At the very beginning, I would like to convey my congratulations and to greet the new President of the 64th General Assembly, Mr. Ali Abdusalam Treki. I would also like to extend to you our full readiness for cooperation in the course of your mandate.

At the same time, I would like to congratulate the former President, Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, for his successful presidency.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to acknowledge the engagements and the endeavors of the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, which, indisputably, contributed to the enhancement of the role and the increased reputation of the world organization.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before I refer to the General Assembly's key theme I would like to remind you of the fear and uncertainty felt by all of us, exactly one year ago, right here. It was fear and uncertainty from the scope and the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis. I recall this in order to emphasize the urgent necessity the World Organization to use this possibility and give its contribution in the processes that shall facilitate the effects of the crisis. Even more importantly to assist the attempts for prevention of new such crises. In this context, the serious economic problems most of us have been faced with, should not shift our focus from the absolute priority, the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The issues concerning climate changes, which today represent one of the biggest challenges for humanity, justifiably, for a longer period of time, are extremely high in our national but in the UN agenda as well. Our children, the generations to come, oblige us to preserve our planet. If we do not establish urgently and immediately the highest and sustainable standards regarding our treatment towards nature, we are witnesses that it mercilessly strikes back. The last minutes are counted down and there is no possibility for further postponement of coordinated and serious measures to combat the negative consequences of climate changes, of global warming. The same, from day to day, have more serious impact on the economic growth, on the quality, quantity and food price, as well as poverty. That is simply an imperative for us!

The Republic of Macedonia, as a party to the Framework Convention of Climate Changes, for more than a decade, actively works on realization of the goals set forth in the Convention. We in our country and I personally, dedicate special significance to the forthcoming UN Conference on climate changes in Copenhagen, and we all have great expectations out of it.

The Macedonian authorities are truly committed and undertake numerous concrete activities in view of raising awareness and responsibilities of all actors in the society in relation to this issue. The Republic of Macedonia is fully prepared, to give appropriate contribution in the global efforts.

Excellencies,

When we address issues related to maintenance of peace and stability, unfortunately, a large majority of us, in continuity, expresses dissatisfaction regarding the current state of play. Peace and security are disturbed on a daily basis in certain regions of the world; we are faced with old and frozen conflicts, but also, with a series of new, turbulent events and tensions in several regions in the world.

Speaking of the reasons for the constant crises in the world or in certain parts of it, I shall use in this occasion the words of the great Martin Luther King, who in 1967 uttered the recipe to overcome bilateral, regional and global crises: "let us be dissatisfied until from every city hall, justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness

like a mighty stream; let us be dissatisfied until that day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid”.

Mr. President,

With reference to what was stated above, I welcome the topic of this Session, meant to assist in finding effective responses to the global crises.

The responses to most questions must take into consideration not only the present and the reality, but lot more than that, to anticipate the future and the goals that have been set. Instead of paying lip service to multilateralism, which I do not believe will help, a real approach is necessary towards its meaning, its actual effects. The Republic of Macedonia and I personally, strongly believe and strive towards effective multilateralism. We believe that strengthening multilateralism has no alternative for the further development and affirmation of the primary goals – peace, democracy and human freedoms and rights, respect of international law and principles.

The Republic of Macedonia strongly supports the joint efforts for improvement of the overall coherence of the UN system. We need a United Nations which shall, in the best possible and most efficient way realize the expectations and the objectives of its members.

The Republic of Macedonia is a country which has an extraordinary important experience and role in nurturing, practicing

and affirmation of Dialogue, in the comprehension and the significance of the Dialogue among Civilizations. The Republic of Macedonia represents a unique example of successful multiethnic and multi-confessional cohabitation. The Summit on Dialogue among Civilizations, held in Ohrid in 2003, assisted and supported by the UN, turned into one specific form of regular annual meetings on highest level, which, under the UNESCO auspices, is regularly organized in the South-East Europe region. This does not only represent recognition for my country, but it also demonstrates the value of dialogue in function of security and development.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Delegates,

The Republic of Macedonia, since its independence, is continuously and faithfully committed to the promotion of democracy and the improvement of the standard of living of its citizens, to essential reforms in all social spheres. The Republic of Macedonia in continuity promotes its society that rests upon the rule of law, respect of human rights, multiethnic cohabitation, dialogue and mutual understanding. In the past period, the Republic of Macedonia achieved impressive progress, recognized and approved by all. My country today meritoriously expects the initiation of the accession negotiations with the EU. My country has fulfilled all the foreseen conditions for NATO membership. My country is active and strong supporter of the regional cooperation, remains fully committed to

good-neighborly relations and to dialogue as key tool for overcoming all open issues in the region.

All governments in my country, consistently, not sparing time and resources, were focused on realization of the two top strategic priorities, EU and NATO integration.

The Republic of Macedonia is strongly dedicated to share and contribute to the Euro-Atlantic values and in the common vision for enlargement of the stability and security zone in South-East Europe. The act of our southern neighbor, that prevented the Republic of Macedonia from membership into the NATO Alliance, was contrary to the obligations undertaken in the 1995 Interim Agreement. This was done in an attempt to influence the outcome of the negotiations held under the auspices of the UN and acted completely opposite to such common visions. Notwithstanding, I would like to stress in front of this forum that the Republic of Macedonia is sincerely dedicated to the process of resolving the differences with our southern neighbor within the mechanism set forth in UN Resolutions. The Republic of Macedonia believes in the law and in the justice. The Republic of Macedonia believes in the International Court of Justice, as a body of the World Organization and protector of the law. The Republic of Macedonia, besides the absurdity of the dispute, sincerely hopes that soon the only obstacle which was preventing us from obtaining the deserved position in the Euro-Atlantic family shall be removed. Despite of the flagrant violation of the international obligations undertaken by our neighbor, whereas the Republic of Macedonia filed

an appeal to the International Court of Justice, convinced in the power of the dialogue, actively and constructively participates in the negotiation process with the Republic of Greece.

Distinguished Excellencies and Delegates,

I would like to state clearly that we are prepared to discuss the issues foreseen in the UN Resolutions only. The Republic of Macedonia is prepared for a solution that is a reasonable and fair compromise, which shall not touch upon, nor deny our national, cultural and linguistic identity in any way, a solution which shall obtain the legitimacy of the citizens. However, there is no more sovereign right than the right of self-determination and self-identification, a right cherished by many generations before us.

I hope that the Republic of Greece shall abandon the policy of taking actions from position of power in order to unfavorably influence the outcome of the disputed issue. I expect that the political leadership will anticipate the wider interests for a permanent stabilization of the region. We believe that with truthful and sincere willingness and preparedness we can reach a solution that will have no winners and no losers.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind you of Article 1, paragraph 2 of the UN Charter, I quote: "(1) to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal

rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.”

Mr. President,

The Organization may not betray the expectations of the vast majority of people who see hope in it, may not betray the ideas of its founders. The organization must get ready and provide responses to the existing, as well as to the emerging challenges posed by the new ages. When I say the organization, I refer to all of us who shall support these processes. The Republic of Macedonia sees in the Organization power that may maintain stability of the international order and relations, as unique power that may cope with the numerous challenges posed to humanity. The Republic of Macedonia, as it was the case so far, shall continue respecting and supporting the principles and values of the Charter.

I shall finish my address with the words of the former Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan: "If the goal of humanity is progress in peace and freedom, the state of peace is not only a state free of conflicts, it is a state of respecting human freedoms and rights. We are still far from that goal; however, indisputably huge and serious progress is achieved".

Thank you.