



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE

64TH SESSION OF THE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 25 SEPTEMBER 2009

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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Mr. President,

It is a pleasure for me to address the 64th session of the UN General Assembly. Our coming here as leaders gives us the opportunity to debate global challenges as per our objectives and goals as enshrined in the UN charter.

The UN is a forum where we all come together to share ideas, review progress and come up with strategies to deal with world issues that need our attention and input. The founders of this organization had a noble idea of addressing world issues amicably with a view to avoid confrontation.

Therefore, we are supposed to meet as equal partners to debate issues that affect us as the world community, where we are guided by the principles of trust, respect and natural justice.

The aim of the UN is to bring joy and peace to the nations of the world, let us make sure that people develop confidence in the UN so that they can approach the organization when they have problems.

We observe that Africa has multiple problems that seriously hinder progress in areas of health, the economy, poverty and social welfare which are part of the Millennium Development Goals. It is our aim as the African continent that we will grow from being third world countries to first world status.

This calls upon us as Africa in general and Swaziland in particular to work harder and smarter in order to realize this goal, and generate a strong economy for the betterment of the lives of all our people.

Mr. President,

However, we realize that we cannot effectively deal with the challenges we are faced with alone, mainly because our resources are limited. It is through the UN that we continue to forge partnerships with different countries so that we work together to grow our economies.

We appeal to the developed nations to recognize our hard work and increase our access to soft loans and grants to support development programmes and poverty reduction strategies. We call on the UN to continue supporting national initiatives aimed at eventually transforming our economies to first world status.

However, the global financial and economic crisis has made the situation difficult, especially for developing countries and it restrains us from achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The secondary effects of the crisis are now hitting hard on developing economies like the Kingdom of Swaziland who have their export trade largely dependent on performance in developed global markets. Several government interventions to rescue sectors such as the pulp and textile industries have been undertaken, in our case.

This was coupled with the need to mobilize resources and the promotion of financial inclusion in order to stimulate economic growth at the grassroots level. In this regard, financial inclusion remains an important stimuli for poverty alleviation programmes in developing countries, like the Kingdom of Swaziland.

We are encouraged by signs of recovery from the crisis and are confident that the United Nations will continue to play its leading role in the efforts to find a speedy resolution to the situation so that we may all focus on development issues for the benefit of all our peoples.

Mr. President,

It is most unfortunate that while we do our level best to improve our economies, we continue to be confronted by disturbances and conflicts which include wars and coups. We condemn these acts as they lead to untold suffering for millions of our peoples. As nations of the world let us come together and make sure that such acts are not supported or encouraged and we call upon all nations of the world to isolate and discourage sympathizers and sponsors.

Where there are problems the peoples of the world must know that they can address the challenges they encounter through peaceful engagement and dialogue.

If we want to achieve peace in the world it is important that we reduce and eventually eradicate nuclear arms which pose a threat to our planet. We need to encourage nations that are at a stage of developing and those that already possess nuclear power to utilize it for power generation that shall support and stimulate economic growth.

Therefore we encourage the UN agency to continue monitoring countries that are developing nuclear and also ensure that countries that already have nuclear capability reduce and eventually eradicate their nuclear arms so that it becomes a thing of the past. In order to accelerate the eradication of nuclear weapons the UN must set targets and timelines for compliance.

Mr. President,

Another issue of concern is the continuous delay of the reform process of the United Nations Security Council. Many nations have come to the conclusion that the membership of the Security Council needs to be expanded so that it is more representative in order for its decisions to be owned by all member states.

Africa has taken firm and clear resolutions on how they would like to see the Security Council composed and these decisions were further affirmed by the recent Non-Aligned Movement Summit. Regrettably we still have not seen meaningful progress on this matter.

We therefore would like to call upon all member states of the Security Council to address this issue with the urgency it deserves.

We are encouraged by the call made by fellow leaders for us to open a new page in the work of the UN by approaching global matters collectively. It is imperative that the UN takes the lead in all issues that affect mankind. The reform of the UN Security Council is one such area that could clearly demonstrate the new approach to issues.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland reiterates its support for the efforts deployed by the international community under the auspices of the United Nations towards a political solution to the issue of the Western Sahara and reaffirm that the initiative by the Kingdom of Morocco of a large autonomy for Western Sahara is a realistic and credible move. The Kingdom of Swaziland calls upon all parties to join the process in order to implement the UN Security Council resolutions 1813 and 1871.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to support efforts to bring lasting peace to the situation in the Darfur region, Somalia and Madagascar and other parts of our continent.

Mr. President,

I take this opportunity to appreciate the support and assistance being extended to the inclusive government and the people of the

Republic of Zimbabwe by the nations of the world, including international organizations.

I also wish to echo SADC's call and appeal for the immediate removal of all sanctions against Zimbabwe in order to ensure speedy recovery of the economy, for the benefit of the long suffering people of that country.

Mr. President,

As we gather here we also wait with anticipation for the outcome of the Israel and Palestine peace efforts. We have seen the two parties enter into promising peace agreements in the past but which regrettably faltered along the way. We call upon the two parties to continue to pursue peace to avoid loss of life and live in harmony.

Mr. President,

We are happy to acknowledge the improvements in the relations between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

This new development has resulted in the international community responding positively to the request of Taiwan to be involved in UN agencies as evidenced by the granting of observer status in the World Health Assembly.

We look forward to seeing Taiwan being allowed to fully contribute to humanity by being given adequate participation in other UN Specialized Agencies.

Mr. President,

It is encouraging that this year's General Assembly was preceded by the Climate Change Summit where issues of environmental protection were given priority, as they are critical to all our development strategies. The Summit noted that developed

countries pollute the environment mainly through gas emissions despite all the protocols in place to protect the environment.

I am confident that the Summit was able to mobilize adequate political support for guiding the December Conference of Parties on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen – where developed countries will be able to share their experiences and challenges they faced.

This will inform the agenda that will lead to transfer of skills and technology so that as developing countries pursue their growth path, they can avoid mistakes of the past.

We cannot overemphasize the need to protect the environment as it is a precious gift from god to humanity, which we must preserve for generations to come.

We support the call for the establishment of a major climate change fund that shall cater for all projects related to climate change. We are hopeful that Copenhagen will come up with solutions for funding that will be predictable, accessible and incremental to assist in climate change projects. The Kingdom of Swaziland is determined to work hard to meet the targets that have been set by the UN.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Swaziland appreciates the good work of the UN and related agencies which remains the only hope for overcoming the many complex challenges facing the world today. We therefore take pride and reaffirm our commitment to the principles and ideals contained in the UN charter.

I thank you. May Almighty God bless us all!