

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE

65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 SEPTEMBER 2010

NEW YORK

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**Mr. President,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Introduction

It is a pleasure for me to address this august body - the 65TH UN General Assembly. We meet at the end of a historical High Level Plenary Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This gave us the opportunity to review progress, share experiences and ideas on how best to achieve our set goals and objectives for 2015. As we go back to our respective countries we go with renewed commitment to keep working harder to meet the MDGs.

Thank United Nations for good work

Mr. President,

I would like from the onset to extend our thanks and appreciation to the UN Secretary-General and the agencies for its presence around the world. We commend the UN's active participation in various missions such as efforts to restore peace in conflict areas, its role in disaster relief and in various exercises to fight hunger and poverty.

We pledge ourselves to continue to support the UN in its primary role of ensuring that all the nations of the world live peacefully with each other whilst supporting nation building through development projects.

Theme for the UN 65th session

The theme for this 65th session, ***"Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance"*** came at a most opportune time in the life of the United Nations since we have been calling for all our voices to be heard.

I must hasten to state that all the wars and conflicts that we see around the world can only be resolved through peaceful dialogue and negotiations. The UN is the only organization that is best positioned for this task. There is no place for unilateralism.

It is on this basis that the Kingdom of eSwatini re-affirms our call for the finalization of the reforms of the UN with particular reference to the Security Council.

It should be appreciated that the world today faces a new set of challenges than it did when our organization was founded in 1945. Thus, the urgent need for the UN to remain dynamic and transform itself to meet today's challenges.

UN Reform

Mr. President,

One of the major organs that require immediate reform is the Security Council which has seen a number of regions expressing a desire to gain membership to ensure wider representation. The Kingdom of eSwatini stands by the African position, as clearly stated in the Ezulwini Consensus - that Africa should get two permanent and five non-permanent seats.

We hope that during this session this matter will be finalized.

Peace for Africa

We, in the African continent are committed to resolving all conflicts through peaceful dialogue. The co-ordination and co-operation between the African Union and its various regional blocs is beginning to pay handsome dividends.

We now approach issues as a collective for better results. We are happy that the UN continues to work and co-operate with us in effecting our programmes for peace-building and peace-keeping.

The General Assembly will know that the African Union declared 2010 to be our year of peace. We have made it clear that all perpetrators of coups, civil wars and all forms of conflict should be dealt with squarely and decisively.

Indeed, we are committed to the promotion of lasting peace because it is a pre-requisite for achieving sustainable development. We appreciate the support of the United Nations in our resolve to ensure that peace prevails in the continent and, indeed the whole world.

I am happy to say that i have personally had the honour of lighting and hoisting the au flame of peace two times this year.

The Swazi nation prides itself in this because we are a peaceful nation which is telling the world that peace is the best formula for development.

Morocco Issue

Another issue that touches upon global governance is that of the Kingdom of Morocco. It is our considered view that the UN, working with relevant regional organizations, should work on the issue and find a lasting solution to this matter.

Conflicts in the world

Mr. President,

We note with concern the continued conflicts in Madagascar, Somalia, Darfur, the Middle-East and Afghanistan to mention just a few.

We call for the restoration of peace in all these areas as it is always disturbing to see people undergo so much suffering due to conflicts.

Afghanistan

Whilst Afghanistan was still undergoing its process of reconciliation and reconstruction of its institutions, it is depressing to note that there are at times pockets that seem to disturb the peace process in that country. We must continue to work hard to find lasting solutions because such instability affects peace and prosperity not only in Afghanistan, but also in neighbouring states and the region.

Iraq

The Kingdom of eSwatini draws hope from the promising developments in Iraq as that country continues on the road to peace through restoration of its important institutions for self determination.

Furthemore, we are also following with keen interest efforts to ensure peace between Israel and Palestine. We are pleased to note the concerted mediation efforts led by the United States of America in bringing the parties together in pursuit of peace in the Middle-East.

We support this process and remain optimistic that it will reach its desired conclusion so that the Israelis and Palestinians could live together in harmony.

In order to concentrate all their efforts towards development and peaceful co-existence. We call upon them to reach a compromise and place the best interest of peace and security above everything else.

Republic of China on Taiwan

Mr. President,

Developments in the cross-straits relations continue to be a source of inspiration to us all. We note with appreciation that the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China have made impressive strides to promote mutual understanding leading to more trade and interaction, among themselves.

I am happy to say Taiwan highly appreciates being allowed to participate as observers in the World Health Organization.

Hopefully, this will also lead to Taiwan participating in a similar manner in all other UN agencies. Of particular interest is the UN Convention on Climate Change.

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation

Mr. President,

Our world today continues to be concerned with nuclear proliferation and the threat that weapons of mass destruction pose on human existence, world peace, economic development and the environment. The spread of nuclear weapons makes a mockery of our efforts for world peace and protection of the environment.

It is a disheartening fact that currently efforts to ensure accountability and compliance with UN resolutions are hindered by apparent lack of impartiality in the processes meant to completely rid the world of deadly nuclear weapons.

I call upon the United Nations to strengthen the capacity of the international atomic energy agency to enable the inspectors to do their work more effectively – with involvement of all the countries with nuclear capability.

The UN must never compromise the execution of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by ensuring that all countries, without exception, comply. Countries must be made to comply and be accountable within clear timeframes.

Mr. President, it is my suggestion that we eliminate all weapons of mass destruction because they present an uncertain future. Indeed, we need a

fresh start so that we may regain the high moral ground in deterring whoever may have ambitions of nuclear capability in the future.

For example, if we compel everyone to dismantle their nuclear capacity we will be able to reign in on other countries which may still be developing their arsenal, without being accused of unfairness or bias.

A world free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction will allow us to concentrate on issues of sustainable development.

Climate Change

Mr. President,

As a developing nation the Kingdom of eSwatini is following with keen interest the issues surrounding the effects of climate change. As an agriculture based economy the Kingdom is also a victim of environmental degradation.

We therefore, look forward to the Conference on Climate Change in Mexico later this year. I trust that the ongoing negotiations will result in agreements that are acceptable to all parties. What is of paramount importance is for the developed world to honour pledges made towards assisting developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Markets and development support

Mr. President,

It is a known fact that access to international markets for our products is one of the ways to grow our economies in our quest to eradicate poverty.

We are encouraged that the developed nations have opened their markets for some products coming from developing countries.

We look forward with optimism to the amicable conclusion of the Doha Round of Talks whose outcome is essential to boost global trade and economic recovery for the developing world.

As part of our development and poverty alleviation strategy, the Kingdom is ready to explore and exploit existing and emerging markets. Our focus is on limiting exportation of raw material by emphasizing the production of finished goods.

Gender Equity

The Kingdom continues to promote equality in all sectors of our development spheres. We therefore welcome the recent establishment of the new United Nations gender entity, namely UN-Women. Women, the world over, continue to play key roles in contributing to the socio-economic and political development of our nations.

Conclusion

Mr. President,

We are meeting as the family of nations that seeks to promote peace and co-existence amongst all nations of the world and bring hope for the future. As leaders our people look upon us to take the lead in promoting peace as enshrined in the UN charter.

We must find lasting solutions to all the challenges which include poverty, unemployment, disease and global warming. The major challenge is to make peace within and among all nations happen.

By doing this, we shall indeed guarantee a clear road towards the achievement of sustainable development by all the nations of the world.

Your Excellencies, we shall achieve this noble goal if we all reaffirm and adhere to the central role of the United Nations in global governance.

I thank you. May god almighty bless us all!