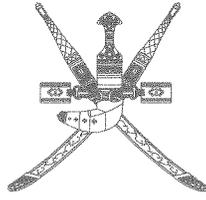


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Sultanate of Oman



سلطنة عُمان

STATEMENT

OF

THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

DELIVERED BY

H.E. MR. YOUSEF BIN ALAWI BIN ABDULLAH
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 67TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations

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Mr. President,

It gives me a great pleasure to offer you and your friendly country, the Republic of Serbia, my warmest congratulations on your election as President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I also wish to express my appreciation to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Nassir Al-Nasser, from the brotherly State of Qatar, for the exemplary manner through which he conducted the work of the previous session.

I would like to seize this opportunity to convey my appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations, for his role and efforts in improving the work mechanisms of the United Nations. I wish him success in his endeavors.

Mr. President,

The United Nations has had numerous tangible achievements that contributed positively in promoting international peace and security and helped reaching political consensus on many regional and international issues.

In our region - the Middle East - the Syrian crisis continue to be great of concern to us due to the loss of lives and properties and the instability it causes in the region and the world. Despite efforts exerted by the United Nations and the League of Arab States, the parties involved in the Syrian crisis failed to reach a peaceful solution that would spare the lives of the Syrian people.

We call on our brothers in Syria to renounce violence, stop fighting, and enter into a political process that will meet the aspirations and the hopes of the Syrian people and preserve the security, stability and unity of Syria. We call on the Security Council, which is responsible for the preservation of international peace and security, to reach consensus on a unified position towards the Syrian crisis, away from any political contradiction and without bias to any party, which would usher a serious national political dialogue between all political powers in Syria without exception.

We believe that the principles and guidelines for a Syrian-led political transition, as contained in the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria in its meeting held in Geneva, could form the basis of the solution.

Mr. President,

The conflict of interests of some countries and disagreement in addressing the Syrian conflict is no longer useful because time has come for a collective action that will preserve security, stability, and development of all the countries in the Middle East, because the alternative would be the spread of violence, killing, and destruction. We believe that it is not in the best interest of the world to turn the Middle East into another global flashpoint.

May I also take this opportunity, to welcome the appointment of Dr. Lakhdar Brahimi as the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, and we hope that he can provide practical and concrete proposals to pull Syria out of the cycle of violence and fighting.

Mr. President,

We are aware of the complexities associated with considering the Question of Palestine, at the United Nations. It is known to all of us that the United Nations has explored all venues and has adopted many resolutions and policies on the Question of Palestine, but this issue is still a subject of concern and source of threat and conflict, which goes beyond the Middle East.

Hence, we believe that the role of the United Nations in relation to the Question of Palestine should change from managing the crisis to seriously searching for a just and lasting comprehensive political solution, that would take into account the interests of the Palestinians and the Israelis, leading to the establishment of the State of Palestine and the State of Israel living side by side.

From this standpoint, my country supports the application of Palestine to become a non-member State of the United Nations, hoping this will usher a new

phase in the concept of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which could contribute positively in the settlement of this problem.

Mr. President,

The Somali people have long suffered from the lack of security, instability and the absence of state institutions; we therefore welcome the formation of the Somali Parliament and the election of His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud as President of Somalia. We hope that the Government of His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud will be able to achieve national reconciliation and establish security and stability throughout Somalia.

As we call upon the international community to provide support and assistance (political, economic, and humanitarian) to the Somali people, we urge the Somali factions of different political and tribal affiliations and organizations to reject violence, cease hostilities, and place the high interest of the nation above any other interest.

We believe that a national dialogue, involving all parties of the Somali conflict, regardless of their ideological and political differences, is necessary, and will contribute in restoring security, stability, and state building in Somalia.

We would like to commend the international efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery against merchant vessels in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea in particular. The Sultanate of Oman, which is located on the Arabian Sea, reconfirms its continued support of the international efforts to eradicate this problem and will cooperate with countries that have naval presence to protect international trade and navigation.

Mr. President,

My country has from the outset supported the proposal to establish a nuclear weapon free zone and free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region. Based on this, my country welcomes the convening of the NPT Review Conference to be held in Finland at the end of this year. We hope the meeting will

be able to officially declare the establishment of the Middle East as a nuclear weapon free zone and free from all other weapons of mass destruction, similar to other zones that were established in other parts of the world.

Mr. President,

At a time when Muslims are trying to promote the culture of tolerance and coexistence, we note that some abusively misuse the right of expression to deliberately slander religions and prophets and messengers of God.

My country expresses its condemnation of the video that slandered the Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon Him), which clearly and deliberately aimed at spreading the culture of hatred against Muslims. Despite the gravity of the offense, we reject escalating the reaction to a level that will result in targeting diplomatic missions and attacking diplomatic representatives as what happened to US and other Western diplomatic Missions.

Against the backdrop of these events and previous similar incidents, we believe that it is incumbent on the United Nations to adopt an international legislation that will hold accountable those responsible for any deliberate abuse and slander of the sanctity of people and provoke their beliefs, which will deter others who may attempt to spread hatred among people from doing so.

Mr. President,

The world is facing real risks in food shortage due to the steady increase in world population and the problems facing the global economy, which have resulted in an ongoing famine in many parts of the world in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

There is no doubt that addressing this problem requires a practical study of alternatives that could alleviate the negative impacts of food shortage. Among such ideas that we think are worthy of exploring is the establishment of a global food reserve system that will meet any shortage in food, with food reserve centers in various continents of the world, managed through an international fund specifically

established to support this system, which will allow states, international institutions, and sovereign funds that have the capacity to contribute in the this fund to do so. In this regard, we are of the view that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in view of its expertise in this field, could be the appropriate body to oversee such a study.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the industrialized countries to increase their investment in agricultural research and to utilize science and technology in their search for innovative solutions towards increasing food production so as to keep pace with the steady increase in the global demand for food.

Mr. President,

In light of the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman to implement the Millennium Development Goals, I would like to note that my country was able to achieve the Fourth Millennium Development Goal in all areas. Through the efforts and strategies adopted by the Government of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Oman managed to reduce child mortality rates, where immunization against measles in 2010 was reported at 100%.

The Sultanate of Oman also recorded a substantial reduction in tuberculosis epidemic which reached 95% in 2010 compared to 67% in 1990.

I would like to note that the Sultanate of Oman received the first place in the UN Award for Public Services, in the category of “Inventing a New Concept and a New Idea in Governmental Administration of Health Information Management System for Medical Institutions.”

In the area of protecting the environment, I would like to point out that the Sultanate of Oman, since the inception of its modern renaissance, has placed environmental concerns and protection in the heart of its strategic plans, where, according to the instructions of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, my country has managed to achieve the required balance between reaching high levels of comprehensive development and protecting the environment.

In terms of international cooperation, in the context of preserving the environment, we welcome the results reached by the Rio+20 Conference and we look forward for a more collaborated international efforts in achieving the six areas contained in the Final Document of the afore-mentioned conference.

Mr. President,

The Sultanate of Oman allocates much of its attention to safeguarding the basic human rights in light of the provisions of international conventions, declarations and agreements. Based on this, the Government of Sultanate Oman has issued several legislations that aim at protecting the right of humans to live in dignity and enjoy all forms of freedom such as the freedom of residence, movement, personal freedom and freedom of expression and other freedoms. To guarantee these rights, the Government of Oman has instituted them in the Basic Law of the State, which aims at preserving the dignity and freedoms of the Omani citizen within context of public order.

The Sultanate of Oman did not stop there, but moved forward to combat certain negative practices and aspects that pose a threat the society and its stability, including human trafficking, where Oman has issued a national law to combat human trafficking and also established a national committee to follow-up in the implementation of an action plan to put an end to it.

In conjunction with the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels in the General Assembly this year, to encourage states to sign the treaties to ensure their universalities, I would like to mention that the Sultanate of Oman has joined many regional and international treaties and conventions, believing in the importance of legislations and laws in the modernization and development, Oman also has issued several laws related to internal affairs, including the Royal Decree which have amended some provisions of the Basic Law of the State and granted Oman Council (comprising of its two chambers: State Council and Majlis A' Shura) vast legislative powers, and also the law of financial and administration control which gives the financial and administrative body control over the properties of the state and those under its administration, and the Royal Decree which dealt with the protection of public

fund and conflict of interest; dealing with information technology crimes to ensure proper use of computers, electronics and communication devices and combat the infringement of the safety, secrecy and availability of data, electronic information and the information system.

In conclusion, **Mr. President**, I can only reiterate the support of my country in all of the international efforts to achieve the aspirations of the people towards a safer and more stable and prosperous world.

Thank you.