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to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
auprès des Nations Unies

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**Address by H.E. Mr. Titus Corlatean,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania,
at the General Debates of the 67th Session
of the UN General Assembly**

-- September 26th, 2012 --

M. le Président,

Je tiens à vous féliciter pour votre élection comme Président de la 67^{ème} session de l'Assemblée Générale et à vous assurer de tout l'appui de ma délégation pendant l'exercice de votre haute responsabilité. Nous sommes convaincus que votre riche expérience de diplomate chevronné ainsi que vos responsabilités antérieures dans la gestion des relations internationales sont des atouts incontestables pour le succès de cette session.

M. le Président,

La présente session de l'Assemblée Générale nous offre le tableau complet du monde actuel, avec tous ses défis et opportunités. On peut aussi entrevoir quelques voies qui s'ouvrent devant nous pour pourvoir aux besoins de l'humanité et les Etats.

Je vais me pencher ici sur les trois domaines principaux d'activité des Nations Unies: paix et sécurité ; développement ; droits de l'homme, démocratie et Etat de droit. Dans notre approche nous considérons que les réalités de la dernière décennie ont confirmé l'interdépendance profonde et complexe qui existe entre ces domaines: il n'y a pas de paix et sécurité sans développement et respect des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie. Le développement est un catalyseur pour la démocratie et le respect des droits de l'homme et, à la fois, un facteur essentiel pour la paix et la sécurité. A leur tour, le respect des droits de l'homme, la démocratie et l'Etat de droit renforcent le développement et créent les conditions pour la paix durable et la sécurité.

Mr. President,

The theme chosen for our political debate during the General Assembly session "Bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means" is timely and relevant, taking into account the evolutions at global level during the last year and the problems confronting the international community.

New situations of internal instability, civil strife and insecurity, with "spillover effect" have appeared in the Middle East and other regions.

I regret that this session of the General Assembly begins under the sorrow of the recent events in Benghazi. Attacks against diplomatic representatives are unacceptable, for any reasons. Diplomats are bridges between cultures, links among nations, their inviolability

is an ancient custom. I strongly condemn the attacks and I pay my sincere condolences to the victims. Perpetrators must be brought to justice, under a fair and equitable trial.

In the same time, the ideals of democracy must be pursued. Stability and rule of law should be the future pillars of societies in Lybia or elsewhere. I firmly state our commitment to support the efforts of the international community to consolidate stability and security, tolerance and religious understanding.

Throughout 2012 we have been confronted with the dire effects of the crisis in Syria. Human rights violations are practically a dominant feature in Syria.

The Syrian Government must comply with its international commitments and obligations related to human rights. Justice must be done in all cases of violence against human rights and all those guilty of that must face a fair trial even if they did not offered that to their victims.

Romania has continuously stated that it is imperative for the international community to curb the escalation of violence in Syria. Naturally we favor a political solution.

In this context, allow me to clearly state our firm support for the mission of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, in his new capacity of Special Representative of the United Nations and of the League of Arab States. We also supported wholeheartedly the implementation in full of the *Six Point Proposal* presented by the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on Syria. Along the same lines, one can also understand our full and direct support to the former UNSMIS activity and I would like to remind in this context that Romanian monitors were part of the structure.

I strongly believe that the only future for Syria must be an inclusive one, for all Syrians, irrespective of their religions or ethnic group. Any other option will be nothing less than a nightmare scenario. The scars of the actual violence will heal in a long time and we must all help the Syrian people to speed up this process.

Time has come for a more structured reaction of the UN that should be based on a consensual approach by the Security Council. Obviously we cannot and should not allow violence to prevail when people in Syria rely on our capacity to offer stability and predictability and when the regional stability and security are at stake.

Last but not least, we believe that the severe humanitarian crisis in Syria needs our undivided attention. Romania takes seriously this responsibility and already contributes to the

efforts of the international community trying to alleviate the pain and suffering of the innocents.

Mr. President,

The recent evolutions in the area of peace and security, both at global level and regional level, do not provide too many reasons for optimism.

There has been limited progress in 2012 in the Middle East Peace Process. The expectations created by the September 23rd, 2011 Statement of the International Quartet for the Middle East remain unfulfilled, as long as the direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have not been resumed.

Romania is a strong supporter of all efforts devoted to achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We support all the initiatives of the Quartet and the full implementation of the *Road Map* „vision of two states – the Israeli and the Palestinian ones – living side by side in peace and security”.

We believe it is essential that each and every decision in the Peace Process is adopted through negotiations. Against this background we continue to consider as inappropriate any unilateral initiatives and actions which have a detrimental effect on the resumption of direct negotiations and represent obstacles in reaching the final objective of identifying a lasting solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Romania is also concerned about the lack of progress in finding negotiated solutions to ”protracted conflicts” in the Black Sea region , such as the Transnistrian conflict, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the one in Georgia, involving Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We all should maintain our attention to these unsettled situations. Meanwhile, we express our satisfaction for the efforts carried out by the UN, the EU and the OSCE special representatives during the last year.

Mr. President,

In the last year, the UN Security Council reacted promptly to new crises by the adoption of resolutions aiming at preventing the escalation of conflict, calling for reestablishment of constitutional order or for efforts of all the parties involved to find negotiated solutions to the new problems. Not always the adopted resolutions met the

expectations. In spite of the fact that mandates of several UN peacekeeping missions were extended, little progress was reached thereby.

Under the auspices of the United Nations, through a common innovative and intellectual effort, the conceptual approach has been enlarged to: human security, responsibility to protect, mediation. There is still a long way ahead of us to make them operational. They should enhance our capabilities to act and to work together to assure peace and security at global and regional levels. Romania stands ready to implement them.

New categories of participants must be included in our common endeavor. Beside governments, non governmental organizations, civil society, parliaments and local communities are already acting in identifying the best solutions. Based on my previous experience, as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate, I do consider that the role of Parliaments – as elected bodies could be increased in prevention activities or in the efforts to settle existing conflicts. In this respect, the cooperation and interaction between the UN, national parliaments, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in peace-building efforts is highly relevant. At regional level, in Europe, we commend the efforts of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to promote security, to contribute to negotiated settlement of protracted conflicts and to support respect of human rights, democratic transition and rule of law.

During the last fifteen years, my country has taken a keen interest in and offered important contributions to civilian and military missions under UN mandate. We have started to develop dedicated capacities, essentially of civilian nature, in the area of stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction.

Today Romania is honored and proud to have contributed in a consistent way to various UN operations. I pay my deepest respect to the men and women of Romania, who have lost their lives, or risk their lives in conflict areas, as well as to all the military, police, gendarmes and civilian personnel serving all over the world to bring peace and security under the UN flag.

Mr. President,

As I have already mentioned, development is equally a major area of interest, action and cooperation within the United Nations.

One area where we could find solutions within the UN framework is improving the functioning of the banking and financial systems and institutions. National and international banking and financial institutions should become more and more a partner of the governments, “a part of the solution” to the economic crises confronting a country or a region. Let us open the doors of our UN debate on economic problems to these major actors of the world economy, in order to discuss and find new solutions together.

The most affected and the most vulnerable are the retired people, the youth and young graduates and the civil servants. Highest attention should be given to the youth and to the young graduates who are, during a crisis, the most affected by unemployment.

The youth are the future of our nations and of our world. United Nations, in the past, approached the problems facing the young generation, including through programs of action adopted by the General Assembly. Time has come to revisit this area of interest, to assess the achievements as well as the steps to be taken in order to meet the current expectations and needs of the youth.

We should reconsider the education sector and its vital role in supporting - especially but not exclusively – the youth, from a broader perspective. This should include universal access of younger generations to education, professional training allowing rapid and efficient integration into the labor market, as well as participation and contribution to the shaping of the future society in all the countries and especially in those in transition.

Education is also crucial in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation in a truly global society. It is an issue with the greatest potential impact on our future. We also see a strong interdependence between the evolution of the economy and the situation of the global environment.

For many years now, water has been a major concern as climate change affects its availability in all the regions. It is important that we work together across the different areas in order to ensure that we are addressing this important challenge including, not lastly, the potential for conflict generated by the lack or insufficiency of water resources. Water, our planet’s most precious resource, must not be allowed to become our planet’s most disputed resource and a source of bitter conflict.

Our attention should be focused on the follow-up and implementation of the decisions recently adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Relevant

resolutions on enhancing the institutional framework to deal with sustainable development, on agreeing on sustainable developments goals as well as on financial aspects needed to achieve these goals are expected by all of us.

M. le Président,

Permettez-moi de partager avec vous quelques idées portant sur le domaine des droits de l'homme, qui ont une relevance croissante pour notre coopération dans le cadre de l'ONU.

Un nouveau souffle dans le débat et la coopération internationale visant la promotion des droits de l'homme a reçu un nouvel essor par la création du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme.

En tant que membre élu du Conseil dès le début de son activité, la Roumanie a contribué à l'élaboration et à l'adoption de ses méthodes de travail basées sur une approche plus analytique ainsi que sur une coopération approfondie et un dialogue interactif avec les Etats-membres. L'objectif principal de la présidence roumaine du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme en 2007 a été le renforcement et la promotion plus active des droits de l'homme au niveau global. Nous considérons que l'Examen Périodique Universel est un instrument idoine pour la mise en œuvre de la protection internationale des droits de l'homme dans tous ses aspects. Il répond aussi aux nouveaux défis, tels que les droits de l'homme et l'internet.

M. le Président,

Ce printemps, à Genève, la Roumanie a promu conjointement avec le Maroc, la Norvège, le Pérou, le Qatar et la Tunisie, la résolution « Les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et l'Etat de droit », qui a reçu le coparrainage de 124 pays de tous les groupes régionaux. L'ample soutien de cette résolution et le grand nombre des Etats-membres qui ont appuyé son adoption par le Conseil confirment l'intérêt des Etats-membres pour ce thème. On a pu constater une large reconnaissance de l'interaction étroite entre les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et l'Etat de droit.

Nous voudrions voir, dans un avenir proche, la même approche de l'Assemblée Générale visant la promotion et l'adoption d'une résolution similaire. A cet égard, la Roumanie est prête à se mettre à l'œuvre pour agir ensemble avec d'autres Etats-membres intéressés.

La résolution affirme le rôle important qui revient aussi aux organisations régionales ou sous-régionales et demande une coopération renforcée dans le système des Nations Unies pour promouvoir les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et l'Etat de droit.

Comme nous l'avons appris de l'expérience des pays en transition, y compris mon pays, pour promouvoir les valeurs et assurer l'exercice des droits des peuples, les Etats doivent consolider leurs institutions démocratiques. Des élections libres et correctes, une autorité exécutive responsable, un pouvoir judiciaire efficace et indépendant, garantissant l'état de droit, sont indispensables pour assurer le respect des droits fondamentaux dans une société démocratique.

M. le Président.

En guise de conclusion, je voudrais réaffirmer l'attachement de mon pays aux principes et aux valeurs promues et constamment enrichies par les Nations Unies. Nous reconnaissons ainsi qu'il n'y a pas d'alternative au cadre de coopération offert par le système des Nations Unies, qui vise à résoudre les problèmes complexes et interdépendants de cette période. La réforme et l'adaptation du système aux nouvelles réalités du monde dépendent seulement de nous, en tant que Etats-membres, de notre volonté politique, en tant que responsables politiques. De cette manière nous répondrons aux attentes de nos peuples.

Ma délégation appuie pleinement l'allocution présentée ce matin par M. Herman van Rompuy, Président du Conseil Européen au nom de l'Union Européenne.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.