



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

**STATEMENT BY
HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III
HEAD OF STATE
OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**

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

**26 SEPTEMBER 2012
NEW YORK**

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**MR. PRESIDENT,
THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES.**

INTRODUCTION

IT IS AN IMMENSE PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN OTHER HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AT THIS 67TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. LET ME BEGIN BY CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENT FOR HAVING WON THE ELECTION TO STEER THE UN ORGANISATION DURING THIS CURRENT SESSION. YOUR EXPERIENCE AND ABILITIES ARE WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED.

WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL TAKE THE ORGANISATION TO GREATER HEIGHTS. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS READY TO GIVE YOU ALL THE SUPPORT THAT YOU SO MUCH DESERVE IN CARRYING OUT THIS MAMMOTH TASK.

I ALSO WISH TO THANK THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HIS DETAILED REPORTS.

WE HAVE SEEN THE UN STAFF WORKING VERY HARD, SOMETIMES IN VERY DIFFICULT AND HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS, DEDICATING THEIR SERVICE TO HELPING THOSE WHO REQUIRE OUR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI CONGRATULATES YOU AND YOUR DEDICATED TEAM FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ENSURE ALL ASPIRATIONS OF THE ORGANISATION ARE BEING REALISED.

ROLE OF THE UN

AS WE GATHER HERE, WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE ROLE OF THE UN IS TO KEEP PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, TO DEVELOP AND HELP NATIONS WORK TOGETHER IN RESOLVING CHALLENGES SUCH AS HUNGER, UNEMPLOYMENT, CONFLICTS, DISEASE AND ILLITERACY, AMONGST OTHERS.

THE UN ALSO AIMS TO BE THE CENTRE FOR HARMONISING THE ACTIONS OF NATIONS TO ACHIEVE OUR ASPIRATIONS.

**ECONOMIC GLOBAL CHALLENGES
MR. PRESIDENT,**

WE ARE MEETING HERE AT A TIME WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS FACED WITH THE NUMEROUS CHALLENGES SUCH AS THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI BELIEVES THAT THE UN IS THE APPROPRIATE FORUM TO DELIBERATE ON THESE CHALLENGES IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH UNITED GLOBAL SOLUTIONS.

AS PART OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS NOT BEEN SPARED FROM THIS ECONOMIC PREDICAMENT.

OUR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES THAT ENHANCE THE DELIVERY OF MDGS AND NATIONAL PROJECTS SUCH AS JOB CREATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE PREVAILING SITUATION.

THE GAINS WE HAVE MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS THROUGH THE ROLL OUT OF ARV'S, REMAIN THREATENED BY THE UNCERTAINTY AROUND THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAMME.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FROM THE GLOBAL FUND IN MITIGATING AGAINST ALL DISEASES.

THESE FUNDS HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TO INJECT RESOURCES IN OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF PROMOTING HEALTH AS A KEY NATIONAL PRIORITY.

THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS OVERCOMING THESE CHALLENGES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE ESSENTIAL.

**IMPLICATIONS OF SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC CHALLENGES
MR. PRESIDENT,**

IN OUR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, WE SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOME OF THE RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS.

OUR STRATEGIES SHOULD NOT CREATE MORE HARDSHIPS BUT RATHER FIND ANSWERS THAT MITIGATE AGAINST THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE WEALTH OF DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, WE STAND TO GAIN VALUABLE STRATEGIES, ESPECIALLY FROM THOSE STATES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

WE URGE THESE COUNTRIES TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MEMBER STATES.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI CALLS ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONSIDER TAKING THESE CHALLENGES AS ONE OF THEIR TOP PRIORITIES DURING THIS SESSION.

**SIBAYA - PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT
MR PRESIDENT,**

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI LAST MONTH CONVERGED AT SIBAYA, TO DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES.

THIS WAS WITH A VIEW OF CRAFTING SOLUTIONS AND AGREEING ON A WAY FORWARD THAT WOULD BEST IMPROVE OUR LIVELIHOODS.

SIBAYA IS A PLACE WHERE EVERY CITIZEN IS FREE TO PARTICIPATE IRRESPECTIVE OF GENDER, CREED, RELIGION OR AFFILIATION AMONGST OTHER THINGS.

WE BELIEVE IN THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL CITIZENS FROM THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

THIS FORUM IS AN INSTITUTION WHERE KEY NATIONAL PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE AND NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ARE CONCEIVED. OUR NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ARE OUTPUTS OF THIS STRUCTURE.

THIS PRACTISE HAS BEEN PASSED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION AND IT HAS CONTINUED TO SERVE US WELL SINCE IT ALLOWS THE PEOPLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WELFARE.

UN CONVENTIONS

LIKE MANY OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THIS ESTEEMED ORGANIZATION, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TOWARDS THE RATIFICATION OF THE UN CONVENTIONS, AS WELL AS THE CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL PROTOCOLS.

I AM PLEASED TO INFORM THIS AUGUST BODY THAT THE SIBAYA FORUM GAVE THE WHOLE NATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS.

THESE CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS HAVE SINCE BEEN RATIFIED BY PARLIAMENT AND DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WE ARE PLEASED THAT WE CAN NOW BE COUNTED AMONGST COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RATIFIED UN CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS.

**PEACE
MR PRESIDENT,**

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN HAS NOW BECOME A COMPLICATED PLACE WITH THE ADVENT OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. WE REMAIN WITH THE CHALLENGE OF HOW BEST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS SOCIAL MEDIA, TO PROMOTE PEACE AND STABILITY.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE NEED TO DO, IT IS TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD.

IT IS TRUE AND WE FULLY AGREE WITH THE ASSERTION THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO PROMOTE VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND. IT COULD BE THE KILLING OF DIPLOMATS, THE FORCED REMOVAL OF GOVERNMENTS, OR ANY OTHER FORM,

IN THIS WORLD, WE ALL HAVE TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE, WHETHER AS MUSLIMS, AS CHRISTIANS OR AS ANY OTHER TRADITIONAL BELIEF. WE HAVE TO LEARN TO RESPECT EACH OTHER, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE, CREED, OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.

IF WE WOULD PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES, THIS WORLD WOULD BE A DIFFERENT AND BETTER PLACE ALTOGETHER AS HUMAN BEINGS, WE MUST OPEN A NEW PAGE, FORGET THE PAST AND LIVE TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF OUR FELLOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO RESOLVING THEIR DIFFERENCES IN A PEACEFUL MANNER.

WE ENCOURAGE A SPEEDY RESOLVE IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE STILL POCKETS OF CONFLICTS SUCH AS THE DRC, SUDAN AND IN SOME NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

THIS ASSEMBLY WILL KNOW THAT SOMALIA HAS ALSO BEEN WITHOUT A STABLE GOVERNMENT FOR A LONG TIME AND WE HOPE THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL BRING ABOUT LASTING PEACE.

IT IS IN THIS VEIN THAT THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI WELCOMES THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN SOMALIA. WE HOPE THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT WILL BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED STABILITY.

**MIDDLE EAST
MR PRESIDENT,**

WE EXTEND THE CALL FOR PEACE BEYOND AFRICA TO THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE WE CONTINUE TO WITNESS CONFLICT. THE WAR IN SYRIA HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES OF ONE TOO MANY CITIZENS AND IT MUST COME TO AN END.

TO THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA, WE WISH TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF FORCE TO RESOLVE YOUR DIFFERENCES. WE ENCOURAGE THE USE OF DIALOGUE WHERE YOU DO NOT SEE EYE TO EYE.

WE IMPLORE THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO SIT DOWN AND DIALOGUE TO FIND A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT IMPASSE. THE BARREL OF THE GUN WILL BRING NOTHING BUT MISERY.

THE UN HAS SENT A SPECIAL ENVOY TO WORK WITH THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA.

WE HOPE ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY IN FINDING A PEACEFUL AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THEIR DIFFERENCES.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI URGES THE UN MEMBER STATES TO WORK TOGETHER IN SUPPORTING ALL EFFORTS AIMED AT HELPING THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA IN RESOLVING THIS CONFLICT.

WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE ISRAELI AND PALESTINE CONFLICT REMAINS UNRESOLVED. A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THIS ISSUE IS DEEPLY DESIRED AND URGENTLY NECESSARY.

OUR POSITION IS UNAMBIGUOUS; THE MOST VIABLE SOLUTION IS TO HAVE THE TWO STATES OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE CO-EXISTING SIDE BY SIDE IN PEACE AND HARMONY.

**ADMISSION OF TAIWAN TO THE UN
MR PRESIDENT,**

WE MUST COMMEND THE RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARDS THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN AND MAINLAND CHINA WHICH ARE STEADILY IMPROVING.

THIS IS VERY ENCOURAGING INDEED, AS IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE SUBSIDED.

WE HOPE THAT ONE DAY THEY CAN RESOLVE ALL THEIR DIFFERENCES AND GET TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH EACH OTHER. WE ARE WITNESSING INCREASING TRADE AS WELL AS FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. RECENTLY IT WAS ALSO INTERESTING TO SEE MAINLAND CHINA HOSTING AN AFRICAN SUMMIT WHERE THOSE COUNTRIES WHO ARE FRIENDS OF TAIWAN WERE ALSO INVITED.

AS AN AFRICAN COUNTRY, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SUPPORT THAT MAINLAND CHINA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE POTENTIAL OF HAVING THE TWO PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE, CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

WE HOPE THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR TAIWAN TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN ALL UN AGENCIES BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN HAVE THE DESIRE TO BE PART OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

**WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
MR PRESIDENT,**

PEACE WILL CONTINUE TO ELUDE US UNTIL WE PROPERLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE WEAPONS ARE NOT NECESSARY FOR MANKIND. THEIR MERE PRESENCE IS A RECIPE FOR CONFLICT AS EACH COUNTRY SEEKS TO GAIN POWER OVER OTHERS.

THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ADOPTED BY THE UN MUST BE ENFORCED TO ENSURE THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY TANGIBLE PROOF TOWARDS COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREED TIME FRAMES BY THE UN AND THIS IS A CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION.

THE MERE EXISTENCE OF SUCH WEAPONS CREATES UNNECESSARY TENSION WHICH COULD RESULT IN A VERY HOSTILE WORLD ENVIRONMENT.

WE IMPLORE THOSE COUNTRIES ENDOWED WITH URANIUM RESOURCE TO USE IT FOR OTHER ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, SUCH AS POWER GENERATION.

REFORM OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL PLAYS IN THE PURSUIT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLEARLY STIPULATES AN INTERNATIONAL ORDER THAT ENSURES THE RULE OF LAW.

WE CALL UPON THIS SESSION TO DELIBERATE ON THE REFORMS WITH REGARDS TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AS NOT ALL REGIONS ARE WELL REPRESENTED.

WE WISH TO REITERATE THE AFRICAN POSITION ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THAT OF HAVING TWO SEATS IN THE PERMANENT CATEGORY AND FIVE SEATS IN THE NON-PERMANENT CATEGORY.

THE FULL REPRESENTATION OF ALL THE REGIONS IN THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THAT WE ALL OWN THE DECISIONS OF THIS IMPORTANT SECURITY ORGAN.

WE SHOULD ALL BE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT. NO REGION OR COUNTRY SHOULD IMPOSE ITS INFLUENCE OVER OTHERS.

WE WISH TO SEE FINALITY TO THIS URGENT MATTER SINCE IT HAS DRAGGED ON FOR A VERY LONG TIME NOW.

CLIMATE CHANGE MR PRESIDENT,

THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WAS HELD ALONGSIDE THIS SESSION, GAVE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT A FORUM TO DELIBERATE ON ISSUES THAT PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

THIS MEETING HAS PROVIDED US AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVISIT THE COMMITMENTS MADE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL. THE DESTRUCTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT HAS HAD DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON MANY OF OUR COUNTRIES.

THE UN MUST EXPEDITE THE PROCESSES TOWARDS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT BY ENFORCING THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES BY MEMBER STATES.

WE CALL UPON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO HONOUR THEIR COMMITMENTS MADE PRIOR TO THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE.

CONCLUSION

FINALLY, MAY I SAY THAT AS WE MEET DURING THIS SESSION, LET US MAKE RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES FACED BY HUMANITY THE WORLD OVER.

WE WISH THE UN ALL THE SUCCESS, AS IT PURSUES ITS OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT AND COEXISTENCE AMONGST ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD. LET HONESTY, PEACE, STABILITY AND TOLERANCE PREVAIL ACROSS THE GLOBE.

I THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.