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**Statement by
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Vos excellences, Mesdames et messieurs, Monsieur le Président,

Je tiens vous féliciter pour votre élection en tant que Président de la 68ème Assemblée Générale.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

Je souhaite vous exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance et gratitude pour votre travail au service du renforcement du rôle et de l'efficacité des Nations Unies en plein soutien du respect des principes de la Charte. Je profite de l'occasion pour souligner l'alignement de mon pays sur les positions de l'UE présentées par le Président Van Rompuy dans son discours.

La Grèce demeure pleinement engagée aux objectifs de l'ONU dont les idéaux universels n'ont jamais cessé de nous inspirer. Nous nous attachons fortement au travail collectif en faveur de la paix durable, de la prospérité et de la sauvegarde de la dignité humaine. Dans cet esprit, nous apportons notre plein soutien aux efforts pour la réforme et le renforcement de l'Organisation, afin de mieux pouvoir répondre aux enjeux du 21ème siècle.

Nous saluons l'Événement Spécial pour la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, ainsi que le Forum Politique de Haut Niveau qui ont eu lieu cette semaine et qui ont mis en avant les grandes thématiques du Développement et de la Coopération au niveau international.

Une gestion efficace de la migration peut faire ressortir l'impact positif de la migration tant pour le pays d'origine que pour le pays de destination. Le dialogue de Haut Niveau sur la Migration et le Développement, qui aura lieu le 3-4 Octobre, présente une opportunité importante pour l'élaboration d'un agenda global pour la gestion efficace et inclusive de la migration ainsi que pour la réaffirmation de la volonté politique nécessaire. La Grèce s'engage à participer activement aux efforts communs à cet égard.

La Grèce –et les pays de l'Europe du Sud plus généralement- subissent une forte pression en matière d'immigration clandestine, pesant lourdement sur notre capacité financière et administrative. La gestion efficace de la migration représente pour la Grèce un choix politique central en ce qu'elle relève directement de la sauvegarde et du respect des Droits de l'Homme, de la cohésion sociale, de la sécurité publique, mais aussi de la stabilité économique de notre pays.

A partir de l'expérience gagnée ces dernières années, nous avons poursuivi une révision de notre Plan d'Action national pour la réforme du système d'Asyle et la gestion de la migration. Par ailleurs, les questions relatives à la migration et mobilité des personnes figurent dans les priorités de la Présidence Grecque du Conseil de l'UE le premier semestre 2014.

Monsieur le Président,

La promotion des Droits de l'Homme se situe au premier plan de nos intérêts. Dans ce contexte, la Grèce apporta son plein soutien à la création d'un Conseil de Droits de l'Homme renforcé, avec un mandat solide. La Grèce est résolue à contribuer

activement à la mission du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme et présente sa candidature pour la période 2017-2019.

Monsieur le Président,

La Grèce s'attache fortement au rôle déterminant des Nations Unies pour la paix et la sécurité. En dépit des contraintes financières, nous restons engagés dans les opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU, auxquelles nous contribuons avec effectifs et moyens, notamment à l'opération FINUL. Nous soutenons les efforts pour la prévention des conflits ainsi que pour la promotion du règlement pacifique des différends.

De plus, nous accordons une importance particulière à la coopération UE-ONU dans le domaine de la gestion de crises et nous saluons le travail entamé pour renforcer davantage cette coopération.

The re-launching of peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, facilitated by the United States, provides an important opportunity to reach a final settlement to this longstanding problem, to the benefit of stability in the wider region.

A settlement based on a two-state solution, with a secure Israel and a sovereign, contiguous and viable Palestine living side by side. Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas must be praised for their leadership and courage to engage in the peace talks. Now is the time to take bold and concrete steps towards peace.

Greece is very concerned with the ongoing crisis and bloodshed in Syria; a crisis that jeopardizes stability in a fragile region.

Greece and the EU have unequivocally condemned the use of chemical weapons, and we strongly support the U.S.-Russian initiative for the collection and destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal.

We welcome the diplomatic breakthrough expected to be achieved by the Security Council on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.

And it is our fervent hope that this would be a crucial turning point in the Syrian crisis, providing vital momentum towards a Geneva II-type process that can take us to a viable and inclusive political resolution of the Syrian crisis.

Greece has always been a firm supporter of a European future for the Balkan region. The process of European integration means leaving behind old, divisive mentalities and moving towards an era of close cooperation, on the basis of shared values and principles. Demonstrating political courage, Belgrade and Pristina concluded a historic Agreement on 19 April 2013, which is a major development towards consolidating peace and stability in the Western Balkans and advancing both sides' European integration.

Mr. President,

We seek to develop our relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia based on the UN Charter principles and in the framework of good-neighbourly relations. Greece is committed to the ongoing UN-led negotiation process and to finding a solution on the name issue. So we continue our efforts to reach a mutually acceptable name for all uses -erga omnes- that will leave no grey areas and which will allow for a clear distinction between our neighbouring country and the region of Macedonia in Northern Greece. The solution of the name issue will enable both Greece and its neighbor to develop a multifaceted and productive cooperation at the bilateral and regional level. It will also contribute to the stability and prosperity of Southeastern Europe and boost this country's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Thirty-nine years after the 1974 Turkish military invasion of the island, the Cyprus problem, remains, first and foremost, an issue of illegal military occupation of well over a third of the territory of a UN and EU member state. A comprehensive and agreed settlement of this major international problem is a top priority for the foreign policy of Greece. In this context, Greece greatly values the UN Secretary General's Mission of Good Offices and, in particular, his ongoing efforts to effectively relaunch the intercommunal negotiating process. We also fully support President Anastasiadis' renewed constructive package proposal.

We hope that Ankara, at long last, will decide to pursue a new policy of normalization of its relations with the Republic of Cyprus. Such a Turkish policy would decisively facilitate the relaunching of intercommunal negotiations. A just and viable solution to the Cyprus issue -- a solution within the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions and in line with the *acquis communautaire*; a solution approved by the Cypriot people through a referendum.

The new developments in the energy sector -- regarding the exploitation of hydrocarbons -- can function as a factor for development, peace and stability throughout the region.

Relations with our neighbour Turkey are set on a positive course. An institutionalized cooperation at the highest government level, as well as increasing tourism and economic cooperation, can create further potential for the future.

Nevertheless, the determining factors for a substantially promising perspective for our relationship with our Eastern Neighbour are:

- full respect of international law and international legality,
- and in this framework a just and viable solution to the Cyprus issue.

Mr. President,

The Greek people have succeeded in restoring the country's credibility. Greece has already achieved the highest structural primary surplus in the Eurozone -- 5% of GDP. Greece has achieved a peacetime historical first: a fiscal adaptation of 19% of GDP in the four years between 2009 and 2013. And we have

done this in spite of experiencing six years of recession. We have carried out necessary, structural reforms in public administration, in the investment sector and in the labor market, and our privatization program is already yielding results. But all of this, of course, has come through great sacrifices by the Greek people and at a very high social cost. Defending democracy and the rule of law against forms of racist, xenophobic conduct -and against all forms of social violence -is a fundamental engagement of the Hellenic Republic.

I wish also to say a few words about the priorities of Greece's upcoming Presidency of the EU, in the first half of 2014. Coming at a time of unprecedented economic challenges for the Union, our Presidency will carry forward the vital debate on the future of Europe. A debate that will intensify as we approach next year's European elections.

All these issues humanity is facing and are being dealt with by this session of the General Assembly emphasize the need to enhance the role of the United Nations as well as the necessity of further consolidating the institutions of global economic and political governance.

The hopes of the international community are oriented towards the United Nations. Our Organization has to send strong and clear message of peace, security and prosperity to the people of the world, and particularly to the younger generation.

I thank you for your attention.