

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
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 68th Session
of the UN General Assembly**

- September 28th, 2013 -

M. le Président,

J'ai l'honneur d'intervenir aujourd'hui au nom de la délégation de Roumanie.

Tout d'abord, je tiens à saluer l'adoption, hier soir, de la résolution du Conseil de Sécurité concernant la destruction d'arsenal chimique du Syrie. Nous considérons que ce vote constitue un véritable succès pour la communauté internationale en ce qui concerne le dossier syrien.

M. Le Président,

Je vous félicite pour votre élection, bien méritée, comme Président de la 68^{ème} session de l'Assemblée Générale et je tiens 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,

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

Dans mon intervention je voudrais traiter quelques questions d'intérêt pour mon pays en ce qui concerne les évolutions positives dans les activités des Nations Unies depuis notre précédent débat, ainsi que les attentes pour la période suivante, dans les trois domaines principaux d'activité de l'ONU : paix et sécurité ; développement ; droits de l'homme, démocratie et Etat de droit.

Nous considérons que les efforts de la communauté internationale et les résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent au Mali représentent une évolution encourageante pour ce pays et pour la région du Sahel.

Il y a une année, la crise du Mali était une préoccupation majeure pour la population malienne et pour les pays voisins. Suite aux évolutions positives dans les premiers mois de 2013, le Conseil de Sécurité a décidé, par sa résolution 2100 du 25 avril 2013, la participation de l'ONU au rétablissement de la situation au Mali et l'appui à la transition démocratique du pays. Des progrès remarquables ont été réalisés cependant : des élections présidentielles libres et correctes ont eu lieu, avec un taux de participation de la population sans précédent. Au début de ce mois le président élu, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, vient d'être investi. Le premier ministre désigné a déjà formé le nouveau cabinet.

En tant que membre de l'Union européenne, la Roumanie a salué l'adoption de la résolution du Conseil de Sécurité qui a décidé la création de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies au Mali (MINUSMA). De même, mon pays a soutenu la participation de la communauté internationale au processus de reconstruction des capacités et institutions au Mali et a décidé de joindre ces efforts, en contribuant avec un contingent de 10 experts militaires à la Mission Européenne d'Entraînement au Mali (EUTM - Mali).

Mr. President,

Allow me to refer to other positive evolutions in the field of peace and security in the last year, which confirm the contribution of multilateralism to progress in the field of peace and security. Ensuring peace and security through international cooperation is one of the main tasks of our Organization. In this framework we set for ourselves important goals in the past couple of years and we proved that working together can lead to concrete achievements and substantial results. It is the case of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. We have managed to deliver jointly a concrete tool meant at ensuring a safer world and addressing the challenges affecting the security of all our citizens.

We must continue on this path and bring the treaty into force as soon as possible. I am pleased to inform you that Romania is currently undergoing legal domestic procedures in order to ratify the treaty as soon as possible.

Similar progress is expected in other areas of multilateral negotiations. At half way to the next Review Conference of the NPT, the second session of the Preparatory Committee chaired by Romania in April this year, in Geneva, revealed that there are growing expectations to see more concrete results in reaching the targets set in the 2010 NPT Action Plan.

Mr. President,

Romania is a strong supporter of all endeavors 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”. Therefore we welcome the recent resumption of direct negotiation as a long awaited step forward, made possible due to constant and tireless efforts of the US Administration. We are hopeful that both parties will take courageous steps aiming to find a durable solution to a problem of high interest for their peoples, for the region and for the international community.

Mr. President,

Since our last debate, we are contended that important steps have been taken in order to implement the key provisions of the final document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The Future We Want”.

Romania commends the efforts and dedication of Brazil and Italy in facilitating the complex and strenuous negotiations that led to the establishment of the High Level Political Forum and made possible convening its inaugural meeting on September 24th.

As member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sharing a seat with Poland, Romania is joining efforts in this very important process that will craft a comprehensive and coherent set of goals for effective delivery and results at all levels, in accordance with Rio Conference decisions.

The new framework should reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development. In this respect, we set up an inter-ministerial ad-hoc Working Group in order to elaborate our national vision of framing the future goals, to be promoted, along with our partners, during the ongoing negotiations on this issue.

In our view, the SDGs should be universal, applicable to all states and provide references and clear suggestions for action and innovative mechanisms for measuring their implementation in order to ensure sustainable development. At the same time, the goals should be based on national ownership and taking into account different national circumstances in order to provide political space and the right to development for each country, and should address, as cross-cutting issues, the perspective of human rights, peace and security, good governance, gender equality, rule of law and equity.

Not least, we welcome the establishment of the intergovernmental committee to analyse options for an effective sustainable development financing strategy and we encourage its coordination with the other relevant processes, in particular the Open Working Group on SDGs.

We strongly believe that the time is ripe to join efforts in defining the global framework of development for the next decades and the current session of the General Assembly represents the best opportunity for a comprehensive and multi-layered interaction to support this endeavor. The theme of our political debate, as proposed by [yourself, Mr. President] the President of the General Assembly, "Post 2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage" is a confirmation and we are committed to contribute actively to this process.

As a current member of the Human Rights Council, we consider that it is our common responsibility to create the conditions of human dignity and welfare around the world and to make progress in search for equality among all human beings. The Human Rights Council proved itself up to its mandate, addressing in a prompt manner the situations of grave violations of human rights in some countries, especially in Syria. We fully commend the activity of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation in Syria, which informed on the violations committed in this country.

We highly appreciate the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which we consider a very useful and successful process. We hope it will remain universal. We also commend the professionalism of the OHCHR and we strongly believe that its independence is essential for the fulfillment of the mandate of both the Council and the Office.

Mr. President,

Another major area where the specialized structures of the United Nations and their dedicated staff deserve all our appreciation is the humanitarian assistance. In the

last year the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance grew to unprecedented levels. Internal and international conflicts, organized crime, poverty, drought, severe violations of human rights are among the causes of these evolutions. In too many situations, the assistance offered by the UN system, in close cooperation with international NGOs and international donors is the only hope of survival for thousands of people.

We commend and support these activities. Despite limited financial availabilities, we make efforts to contribute to this process. In this respect I would like to mention the activities of the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara. The Centre proved to be a feasible mechanism offering safety to persons in urgent need of international protection and, thus, creating humanitarian space. It is an already well-established link in the global resettlement process. We are pleased to see that similar structures have been replicated in other regions of the world and we express our readiness to engage and to share our experience with them.

Mr. President,

Allow me now to share with you some of our expectations for the UN activities in the year to come.

The long lasting crisis in Syria continued in the last year with increased violence that caused more than 100 thousand victims and more than 5 million refugees. Harsh confrontations between the Syrian Army and the opposition forces, that ultimately led up to the use of chemical have triggered the outrage and firm condemnation of the international community.

Romania has continuously stated that it is imperative for the international community to curb the escalation of violence in Syria. We favor a political solution under a Syrian-led transition process, based on all Syrian parties' cooperation with the international community, seeking the preservation of the Syria's territorial integrity. By the adoption of the yesterday Security Council resolution no. 2118, Syria has been given all chances to reenter on the right path. We urge all parties to respect and to act in accordance with the provisions of this resolution which creates the conditions for a negotiated peace within Geneva II process.

Hence, in this new context, we call all States not yet Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention to undertake the necessary internal measures for adhesion in order to make sure that a future use of such weapons is not only prohibited, but also made impossible.

I would also like to recognize, as a major break through yesterday the historic call between President Rouhani and President Obama. This one on one conversation, occurring after more than two decades, gives us hopes that Iran's nuclear program will become more transparent, and only energy-oriented. We wait, with legitimate interest, the specific plan Minister Zarif will present, in this respect, in mid October in Geneva.

UN Peacekeeping operations and special political missions have a major contribution to achieving the goals of international peace, stability and security. We welcome the inclusion on the agenda of this General Assembly session of a new item devoted to "Special political missions" and appreciate the report prepared by the Secretariat for this item. Thus, member states will have the possibility to exchange views and make proposals for policy measures in order to better adapt the special political missions to the expectations of the international, regional and local communities.

Romania welcomes and supports the efforts of coordination at UN level of the cross-cutting and multi-dimensional rule of law approach. At the same time, my country supports step by step implementation of the responsibility to protect concept starting with strengthening on the capacities at regional level and the early warning and preventive functions.

Mr. President,

The world is made by regions and each and every region faces its own challenges. Efforts to identify negotiated solutions to "protracted conflicts" in the Black Sea region (Transnistrian region, Nagorno – Karabakh, Abkhazia and Ossetia) should remain high on our agenda.

We consider that the actions of the UN in the field of peace and security could be enhanced through increased engagement with regional organizations. In some regions, we have already experienced the advantages of this kind of cooperation with regional organizations, whose activities are complementary to those of the UN system. As a strong advocate of the increased synergies between the UN system and regional organizations, I would like to bring to your attention the positive results obtained, in the last years, in promoting regional cooperation within the South East-European Cooperation Process.

Regional dialogue proved to be, time and time again, the most efficient tool to overcome the persisting differences of opinions among our countries. This is particularly valid for South Eastern Europe, where more than ever, regional cooperation is crucial for further consolidating the relations between the countries and, at the same time, for developing the region itself.

Meeting the challenges of change and interdependence through regional cooperation represents the overriding priority of the years ahead for all the actors involved. The South-East European Process is the authentic voice of this region, as it is the only regional format that significantly contributed, over the years, to the improvement of the overall relations among the Participating States. Romania, as Chairmanship-in-office of the SEECP, will focus on result-oriented actions meant to contribute, in the most concrete manner, to the development of the region.

Mr. President,

Representing a country that carried out, after 1990 a complex process of political, economic and democratic transition, we consider that the international community needs

to support countries undergoing democratization processes. The challenges these countries face are complex: promoting democratic governance and the rule of law, addressing specific aspects of past human rights violations and encouraging a transitional justice. In order to have a contribution to this process, my delegation will promote during the current session of the General Assembly a resolution on "Human rights, democracy and rule of law in the context of post-2015 Development Agenda". Based on our experience in promoting a similar resolution during the March 2012 session of the Human Rights Council, widely supported by 127 co-sponsors, we are hopeful that our initiative will receive the same support of the General Assembly.

Mr. President, at the end of my intervention, I would like to reconfirm our commitment to the values and principles of multilateralism and to reassure you of my country's sound support in all your endeavors to implement the ambitious agenda ahead of us.

I thank you for your attention.