



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**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE OF
THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2013
NEW YORK**

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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

INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO GET THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN MY FELLOW HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT FOR THIS - 68TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WE WISH TO OFFER OUR PROFOUND CONGRATULATIONS AND SUPPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE 68TH SESSION. WE ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS THE KINGDOM'S SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MR. BAN KI-MOON, AND HIS ENTIRE STAFF FOR THEIR ROLE AND EFFORTS THEY CONTINUE TO PLAY IN IMPROVING THE WORK MECHANISMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD HOST.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BROUGHT HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING, WHICH IS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE UN CHARTER. THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UN, IS TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE AMONGST MANKIND SO THAT RESPECTIVE NATIONS CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

WE ARE PLEASED THAT, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ALWAYS WORKED HARD TO PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND IT HAS FURTHER TAKEN POSITIVE ACTION TO PREVENT AND REMOVE THREATS TO THE PEACE WHICH MANKIND DESIRES SO MUCH.

WE ARE ALSO COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT, HUMANITY IS FACING A TEST OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS OF HOT SPOTS THAT CONTINUE TO GIVE A HUGE CHALLENGE TO THE UN TO ADDRESS.

TERRORISM ON ATTACK ON KENYA

WE HAVE BEEN DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE SENSELESS KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WHICH TOOK PLACE THIS WEEK IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA IN NAIROBI. WE CONDEMN SUCH ACTS OF TERRORISM IN THE STRONGEST OF TERMS.

WE SEND WORDS OF COMFORT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES THROUGH THIS TRAGEDY AND SENSELESS VIOLENCE. THE WORLD NEEDS TO STAND TOGETHER AND WIPE TERRORISM FROM THE FACE OF THE UNIVERSE. WE CALL UPON THOSE WHO SUPPORT SUCH ACTIVITIES TO CEASE FROM DOING SO FORTHWITH.

GLOBAL HOTSPOTS

MR. PRESIDENT,

WE ARE ALSO EXTREMELY DISTURBED BY THE DEADLY CONFLICTS IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS SYRIA, WHERE INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE DYING ON BOTH SIDES INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WITH SOME DISPLACED AND ARE NOW LIVING AS REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE FIRE AND USE DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF SOLVING THEIR DIFFERENCES BECAUSE USING THE BARREL OF A GUN TO SETTLE A SCORE WILL NOT HELP THEM.

INSTEAD, IT WILL LEAVE THE SYRIAN PEOPLE DIVIDED AND NOT SEEING EYE TO EYE. THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES WILL BE DESTROYED, LEAVING INCREASED PROBLEMS THAT WILL HAVE DEVASTATING EFFECTS FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME TO COME.

WE TRUST THEY WILL SOON FIND A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THEIR CRISIS. THE UN MISSION FINDINGS ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA, SHOULD BE USED AS A BASIS TO CHART A WAY FORWARD IN PURSUIT OF THE DISMANTLING OF THESE UNCONVENTIONAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, WHICH ARE A SERIOUS THREAT TO MANKIND.

AS LONG AS THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THAT COUNTRY, IT REMAINS AT RISK OF SIMILAR ATTACKS WHERE NOBODY WILL OWN UP TO THEM. THEREFORE IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT THE DISMANTLING PROCESS BEGINS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT TO PREVENT A SIMILAR ATTACK IN FUTURE.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WHATEVER ACTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN SYRIA, IT MUST FALL WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE UNITED NATIONS MUST ACT QUICKLY ON THESE ISSUES AND TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN MAKING SURE THAT THOSE EPISODES WHERE LIFE IS LOST THROUGH THE USE OF SUCH WEAPONS ARE PREVENTED.

DIALOGUE AND PEACE

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR LEADERS AND GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT AND BE IN CONSTANT CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES, TO AVOID SITUATIONS WHERE LEADERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO CREATE FORUMS WHERE PEOPLE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES BECAUSE A LACK OF SUCH COMMUNICATION AND DETACHMENT LEADS TO EITHER GOVERNMENTS OR THE PEOPLE REACTING IN A VIOLENT MANNER TOWARDS THE OTHER.

THE DOMINO EFFECT OF THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS AS THE PROBLEM OF ONE COUNTRY CAN EASILY SPIRAL INTO THAT OF OTHERS WHO MAY NEED TO INTERVENE. SUCH STRIFE CAUSES COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE UNITED NATIONS, TO DIVERT FROM THE OBJECTIVES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO CHANNEL THEIR RESOURCES TOWARDS FINANCING CONFLICT SITUATIONS INSTEAD OF THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS COMMITTED TO A PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE AT THE PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, SIBAYA, AND OTHER DIALOGUE FORUMS. THIS PRACTICE IS DEMOCRATIC AND PARTICIPATORY IN THAT EVERYBODY IS INVOLVED IN KEY DECISION MAKING PROCESSES.

2013 NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

MR. PRESIDENT,

BEFORE COMING TO ATTEND THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HELD A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND PEACEFUL ELECTION WHICH PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WE HAVE HAD OVER THE YEARS.

GIVEN THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO FORM 40 PER CENT OF THE SWAZILAND POPULATION, 70 PER CENT OF THESE VOTERS REGISTERED FOR THE ELECTIONS. THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ELECTIONS WERE ALSO VERY PEACEFUL, FREE AND FAIR WITHOUT ANY INFLUENCE. IN THE PAST THERE WAS ONLY ONE DAY OF VOTING, BUT THIS YEAR WE HAD TO EXTEND IT FOR TWO DAYS DURING THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

OUR ELECTIONS EMBRACE OUR TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL EXISTENCE WHERE PEOPLE FROM COMMUNITIES NOMINATE PEOPLE IN THEIR CHIEFDOMS TO COMPETE AT CONSTITUENCY LEVEL, WHICH WE CALL TINKHUNDLA. THE WINNERS THEN GO STRAIGHT TO PARLIAMENT AS A DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

AS A RESULT, THE PEOPLE ARE HAPPY TO BE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATION PROCESS BECAUSE THEY CAN CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE WHO CONSTITUTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY.

IT IS IN THIS VEIN THAT WE TRUST THE NEW PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL WORK VERY WELL WITH THE PEOPLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TOWARDS MEETING THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND ATTAINING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

WE ALSO NOTE WITH INTEREST THE INCREASED NUMBER OF OBSERVERS IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION. THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WERE HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH OUR ELECTIONS. WE THEREFORE CALL UPON THE WORLD TO EMBRACE OUR SYSTEM.

THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT – MONARCHIAL DEMOCRACY

WE ARE AWARE THAT MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WORKS. WE ARE HAPPY TO DEFINE OUR SYSTEM AS A MONARCHIAL DEMOCRACY.

MONARCHIAL DEMOCRACY IS DEFINED AS THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE MONARCHY AND THE BALLOT BOX. THE BALLOT BOX IS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. PEOPLE PROVIDE ADVICE AND COUNSEL TO THE KING THAT ENSURES TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IT IS A COMBINATION OF POWER WITH EMPOWERMENT. IT MEANS THAT THE MONARCHY OF ESWATINI GUARANTEES THE CONTINUITY OF STABILITY AND THE DEMOCRACY OF ESWATINI, GUARANTEES THE SHARED POWER OF THE PEOPLE.

THEREFORE, THE MONARCHY IS MARRIED TO THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE KING DOES EVERYTHING IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS. IT IS HOME GROWN, IT EASILY ACCORDS WITH THE NORMS AND VALUES OF THE SWAZIS AND IS THEREFORE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL SWAZIS.

TO THOSE WHO PROCLAIM THAT DEMOCRACY IS THE ANSWER TO ALL NATIONS AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT, WE PRESENT OURSELVES AS TESTIMONY TO A NEW DEMOCRATIC IDEOLOGY THAT WORKS.

IT HAS A PLACE IN MODERN DAY DEMOCRACY AND IT COMPLIES WITH ALL STRUCTURES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS COMMITTED TO THE IDEALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN JUST AS MUCH AS SHE IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING ITS HISTORY, ITS LEGACY, ITS DIGNITY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EMBRACING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATING IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

IT IS THEREFORE THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI'S POSITION THAT IT BELIEVES IN DEMOCRACY AS AN IDEA BUT NOT AS AN IDEAL BECAUSE THINGS THAT ARE IDEAL TO YOU MAY NOT BE IDEAL TO OTHER PEOPLE. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITIES, THE TECHNOLOGIES, THE MECHANISMS THAT CREATE A MODERN SOCIETY.

OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE A FIRST WORLD STATUS BY 2022 OR BY WHICH TIME THERE MUST BE VISIBLE SIGNS THAT WE ARE HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND OTHERWISE.

FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE KINGDOM TOWARDS POVERTY ERADICATION, IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE, INFRASTRUCTURAL

AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE CONFIDENT OF SEEING MUCH MORE PROGRESS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO COME.

POST 2015 AGENDA

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE IN 2000 AND MOST OF WHOSE TARGETS ARE COMING TO AN END IN 2015. GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, GENDER AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND MALARIA CONTROL.

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY HAS IMPLEMENTED A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS THE OTHER MILLENNIUM GOALS, THERE IS STILL NEED TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF POVERTY, HIV AND AIDS, INFANT MORTALITY AND MATERNAL HEALTH.

IN ORDER TO SOLICIT VIEWS ON THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI EMBARKED ON AN INTENSIVE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. THIS PROCESS INVOLVED A CROSS SPECTRUM OF STAKEHOLDERS WHICH INCLUDES AMONGST OTHERS; TRADITIONAL LEADERS, YOUTH, WOMEN, MEN, BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND DIFFERENT REGIMENTS.

ON THE GOAL OF ERADICATING POVERTY, THE NATION AGREED THAT POVERTY IS STILL A CHALLENGE WHERE MORE EFFORT IS NEEDED TO ADDRESS IT. THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY IN RECENT YEARS DUE TO THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SITUATION AND THEREFORE A LOT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THIS REGARD.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, THE COUNTRY HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION. HOWEVER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THERE IS NEED TO FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION AND INTRODUCE MORE VOCATIONAL SKILLS.

GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE HEALTH SECTOR. HOWEVER, THE BURDEN OF DISEASE CONTINUES TO EXIST, HENCE THE GOAL REMAINS VERY RELEVANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF ESWATINI.

THE COUNTRY IS STILL FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF HIV AND AIDS AND THEREFORE IN THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, PRESSURE TO ADDRESS THE SCOURGE AS WELL AS OTHER NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND GOOD NUTRITION REMAINS A PRIORITY AND SHOULD FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUES TO BE A DRAWBACK TO MANY OF OUR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. OUR FOOD PRODUCTION HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE PATTERNS AND THEIR RELATED CHALLENGES.

THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES, TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-SOUND TECHNOLOGIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ARE CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR GLOBAL OBJECTIVES.

WE THEREFORE APPEAL TO OUR DEVELOPED PARTNERS TO HONOUR THEIR PLEDGE MADE TOWARDS THE GREEN FUND AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AS A MATTER

OF PRIORITY. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THIS COULD ADD THE REQUIRED IMPETUS IN OUR OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION.

THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF ESWATINI, SINCE WATER IS A VERY BASIC NEED FOR PURPOSES OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS FOR DOMESTIC USE.

REMARKABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE AREA OF SUPPLYING POTABLE WATER TO HOUSEHOLDS WHERE COVERAGE HAS REACHED 71% NATIONALLY. THE CREATION OF JOBS, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND EQUITABLE GROWTH IS CRITICAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY COUNTRY AND IS LINKED TO THE GOAL OF ENDING POVERTY.

EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PUT ON VALUE ADDITION, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE YOUTH. AS A COUNTRY, SWAZILAND IS FULLY BEHIND THE POST 2015 AGENDA BECAUSE IT REMAINS A GUIDELINE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

SECURITY COUNCIL REFORMS

THE ISSUE OF THE REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. WE ARE CALLING FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL THAT WILL GIVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD, TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS IN GLOBAL ISSUES OF CONFLICT AS AN INTERNATIONAL FAMILY.

WE BELIEVE OUR PROPOSAL IS JUST AND FAIR SO THAT AS AFRICA REGION WE COULD HAVE A VOICE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN THIS ESTEEMED GLOBAL ORGANIZATION.

CONCLUSION

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY THEIR ADVOCACY ROLES IN MAKING SURE THAT MANKIND CONTINUES TO LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH EACH OTHER. ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCES WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT WITH SOLID INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND CROSS-STRAIT DEVELOPMENTS, THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN HAS INCREASED ITS MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND MECHANISMS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE POSITIVE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF TAIWAN STRAIT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. FINALLY, I HOPE THIS SESSION WILL COME UP WITH THE DESIRED RESULTS AND TANGIBLE TARGETS. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO A POST 2015 AGENDA THAT WILL CREATE A CONDUCIVE LANDSCAPE FOR ALL MANKIND TO LIVE IN.

THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.

