

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE  
auprès des Nations Unies

*Check against delivery*

**Address by H.E. Mr. Victor Ponta,  
Prime-Minister of Romania,  
at the General Debate of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the UN General Assembly**

**- September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 -**

**Mr. President, distinguished delegates**

I have the honour to address this meeting today on behalf of the Romanian delegation.

Allow me first to congratulate you for your election as President of the 69th session of the General Assembly, and to assure you of the full support of my delegation in fulfilling this high responsibility function.

Comme j'ai l'honneur de participer pour la première fois à ce débat de haut niveau, permettez-moi de réaffirmer la vocation pacifique de mon pays de promoteur de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, des valeurs de a démocratie, de l'état de droit et du respect des droits de l'homme.

Le rapport du Secrétaire général sur l'activité des Nations Unies pour l'année passée confirme, une fois de plus, que la coopération des Etats membres, basée sur les principes des Nations Unies et dans un esprit de solidarité, peut répondre aux défis actuels de nos peuples.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Je voudrais traiter quelques questions d'intérêt pour mon pays, à l'égard des évolutions dans les relations internationales.

Depuis le précédant débat général de l'Assemblée Générale, le domaine de la sécurité internationale a connu les plus complexes et les plus graves développements après la fin de la guerre froide.

C'est dans ce contexte que nous avons le devoir de confirmer, une fois de plus, notre engagement en faveur des principes de la souveraineté et de l'intégrité territoriale de tous les pays, du non-recours à la force, de la solution pacifique de tous les problèmes entre états, en conformité avec le droit international.

**Mr. President,**

One of the crises of outmost concern for my country is the current situation in Ukraine, given its impact on the security of the countries in Eastern Europe. The crisis started with the unilateral annexation of Crimea, an integral part of the sovereign state of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. This unprecedented action on the European continent in the last decades was continued with an internal conflict in the Eastern regions of Ukraine, generated by forces pursuing separatist goals, financed and supplied by the Russian Federation.

I wish to reconfirm our clear and firm position on the crisis in Ukraine: Romania rejects any form of external pressure towards the states in Eastern Europe having European integration aspirations.

Romania firmly supports Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. A strong, united and sovereign Ukraine, committed to its European path and to reforms in the economic and political fields is in the best interest of Europe.

The international community has been involved in finding a solution to this crisis from its beginning. We commend the UN for its constant presence in the field, the efforts of OSCE to monitor the day-by-day developments on the ground and to support the whole international effort, through its specific mechanisms.

For many years, all countries in Eastern Europe, as well as in the Black Sea region, shared and openly declared common goals of peace and cooperation. But, instability and grave security concerns, such as the Transdnistrian case, also Ossetia and Abkhazia, now Donetsk continue to be obstacles to these goals.

We must condemn the aggression!

We should not lose trust in the rule of international law.

We should not lose faith in the benefits of cooperation.

And we should all strive to prevent the spill-over of the current crisis.

This region has always been a bridge between Central Asia and Europe. At this juncture, we have a historical responsibility to assume, protect and preserve the huge potential of collaboration and development in this part of Europe.

**Mr. President,**

Located at the crossroads of the Danube and Black Sea regions, as well as that of Northern Europe and the Balkans, Romania is fully aware that regional cooperation is a key for ensuring regional stability, in building confidence and in promoting the universal principles and values of the UN charter.

Joint initiatives on economy, environment, infrastructure, and cross-border cooperation have a long term impact on all the countries in our region. As EU member, Romania is an active contributor to the EU Strategy for the Danube River, the EU Black Sea Synergy, and the South-Eastern European Cooperation Process.

We praise the solidarity expressed by the EU and the transatlantic partners in supporting a sustainable path of Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia in reaching freely its European aspirations.

75 years ago, infamous Ribbentrop - Molotov pact took away a part of Romania – 25 of Moldova.

We learn that history must not be an excuse for justifying actions against other countries. On the contrary, our answer to any temptation of the past history is the strong support for a democratic development, the respect for democratic choice of the future, and respect for international law. I want to state this clearly, on behalf of my country, as an expression of our democratic identity and responsible conduct in our relations with all our neighbors, also when speaking about democratic the future of the Republic of Moldova, the same Ukraine and Georgia.

Turning the extended Black Sea region into an area of peace, stability and prosperity should continue to guide our cooperation. We express our support for a democratic, secure and stable region and we encourage our regional partners to extend our solidarity with Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

**Mr. President,**

A source of concern to all of us is the multiplication of political, security and strategic challenges in the EU's Southern neighborhood and in the Middle East.

The proliferation of radical islamist movements and the emergence of new groups, such as ISIS, lead to an enhanced terrorist threat. ISIS represents a new breed of terrorism, which threatens to destabilize the entire Middle East. ISIS goes beyond Iraq and Syria, and therefore represents a major challenge to international order, which must be dealt with by all states.

We must all stand united and fight terrorism wherever it arises.

I want to express Romania's firm support for building solidarity in confronting this new challenge.

**Mr. President,**

In the field of development, we consider that the current session of the General Assembly is crucial for the preparation of the post-2015 Development Agenda, which will guide our action in the coming decades.

As member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Romania brought its contribution to this very important process, in accordance with Rio conference decisions. Our national vision on the future goals was adopted by the government of Romania in December 2013, and we are pleased to see that our areas of interest are reflected in the report of this group.

The future development agenda should address poverty eradication and sustainable development, good governance and the rule of law. But it should also provide a platform for social inclusion and reduction of unemployment, giving us confidence and hope to present and future generations of youth.

**Mr. President,**

In the last year, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, especially the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, grew to unprecedented levels.

We commend and support the assistance offered to these persons by the UN system, in close cooperation with International Organizations, NGOs and international donors.

Despite limited financial resources, we make efforts to contribute to the process of assisting refugees.

In this respect, I would like to mention the activities of the emergency transit center in Timisoara – Romania, established by the Romanian Government, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration.

The Centre, the first of its kind in the world, proved to be a feasible mechanism offering safety to persons in urgent need of international protection, thus becoming a practical expression of the human security concept.

This contribution reflects the responsible conduct Romania always adopted in facing global challenges.

We will continue to contribute to the international efforts with the same dedication and responsibility, as our troops and civil experts have done it in several areas such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo or places in Africa.

**Monsieur le Président,**

L'année 2014 a une résonance particulière pour les roumains et on nous rapproche de notre Centenaire national qu'on va célébrer en 2018. Il y a vingt cinq ans, notre marche sur la voie de la transition démocratique a durement démarré. En 1989, les roumains ont choisi la démocratie, le respect de tous les droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales. Nous avons rencontré des difficultés, mais notre détermination nous a menés à une transition réussie.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais réitérer notre engagement ferme et constant envers l'ONU, la Charte et les valeurs et principes qui encadrent son fonctionnement.

La Roumanie continuera à défendre le droit international et le principe de la résolution pacifique des conflits, tout en promouvant les droits de l'homme, dans le but de réaliser la prospérité pour tous !

**Je vous remercie de votre attention.**