

# **KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**



**STATEMENT BY HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III,  
HEAD OF STATE OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI,  
DURING THE 80<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, IN NEW YORK, USA.**

**25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

**KING'S OFFICE**

YOUR EXCELLENCY, MADAM PRESIDENT OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
YOUR MAJESTIES,  
EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,  
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

## **INTRODUCTION**

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO ADDRESS THE 80<sup>TH</sup>  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
UNDER THE THEME, **"BETTER TOGETHER: 80 YEARS  
AND MORE FOR PEACE, DEVELOPMENT, AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS."**

AT THE OUTSET, WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU MADAM  
PRESIDENT OF ESWATINI'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT  
DURING YOUR TENURE. WE ALSO COMMEND THE UN  
SECRETARY GENERAL AND SECRETARIAT, FOR THEIR  
STEADFAST LEADERSHIP IN NAVIGATING OUR WORLD  
THROUGH UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES.

## **ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

AS WE GATHER TODAY, MANKIND IS CONFRONTED WITH MANY CHALLENGES INCLUDING CONFLICTS AROUND THE WORLD. WE MUST REMIND OURSELVES THAT WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1945, IT WAS DURING A TIME OF WIDESPREAD GLOBAL STRIFE.

ITS FOUNDING FATHERS RESOLVED THAT NO COUNTRY OR PEOPLE SHOULD ENDURE SUFFERING DUE TO CONFLICT. THE UN CHARTER AND STRUCTURE WERE DESIGNED TO BE CLEAR AND RESOLUTE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ASK OURSELVES WHAT HAS GONE WRONG AND WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO CORRECT THESE CHALLENGES AND RESTORE THE UN'S MISSION OF FOSTERING PEACE?

THE QUESTION WE MUST ASK OURSELVES FURTHER IS: WHAT IS THE UN DOING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES EFFECTIVELY?

I PROPOSE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHES AD HOC COMMITTEES TO TACKLE GLOBAL CONFLICTS AND PROMOTE PEACE.

THESE COMMITTEES SHOULD HAVE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION IN DEALING WITH RELATIVE CONFLICTS IN THE DIVERSE REGIONS OF HOT SPOTS INCLUDING AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE, AND BEYOND — ENSURING THAT ALL AFFECTED NATIONS HAVE A VOICE.

SUPPORTED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THESE AD HOC COMMITTEES WOULD VISIT CONFLICT ZONES, ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND WORK TOWARDS PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN AFRICA THE CONFLICTS IN SUDAN, SOUTH SUDAN, SOMALIA, THE SAHEL AND THE GREAT LAKES NEED THE INTERVENTION OF THESE AD HOC COMMITTEES.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THEY SHOULD FACILITATE DIALOGUE WITH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, THE TEAM COULD ASK THE PALESTINIANS WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD REMAIN AGGRIEVED AS LONG AS THEIR LOVED ONES ARE NOT WITH THEM.

SIMILARLY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SHOULD ENGAGE THE ISRAELIS TO ASCERTAIN WHAT IT WOULD ALSO TAKE FOR THEM TO STOP THE BOMBARDMENT TO AVOID LOSS OF MORE INNOCENT LIVES, WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, AND A GROWING REFUGEE CRISIS.

BY ENGAGING DIRECTLY WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, THESE COMMITTEES COULD HELP BROKER SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF ALL SIDES, TO REDUCE TENSIONS, SUFFERING AND FOSTER STABILITY.

IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, THESE AD HOC COMMITTEES COULD MEDIATE DISCUSSIONS TO IDENTIFY PATHWAYS TO PEACE. THEIR ROLE WOULD BE TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE, AND REPORT BACK TO THE UNITED NATIONS WITH ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO END THE WAR.

IN ESWATINI WE ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENTS THAT YIELD POSITIVE OUTCOMES PROVING THAT DIALOGUE IS THE CORNERSTONE IN NATION BUILDING.

WE THANK THOSE COUNTRIES ALREADY MAKING MEANS IN FINDING SOLUTIONS. THIS SUGGESTED APPROACH IS NOT MEANT TO UNDERMINE THEIR EFFORTS, BUT IT WOULD COMPLEMENT THEM AS THEY ARE ALREADY WORKING TOWARDS PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS.

WE MUST AVOID ACTIONS THAT COULD ESCALATE TENSIONS FURTHER AND INSTEAD FOCUS ON SAVING INNOCENT LIVES.

MILLIONS OF LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. WE THEREFORE, CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE TO CONFLICTS.

THE UN MUST NOW FOCUS ON SUPPORTING THE BUILDING OF ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF POVERTY AND THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISES, WHICH WE EXPERIENCED AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. BY INVESTING IN THESE AREAS, WE CAN CREATE CONDITIONS FOR LASTING PEACE.

WE THEREFORE NEED ONE ANOTHER IN BUILDING AND SUPPORTING OUR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW. THE UN WAS ESTABLISHED IN PURSUIT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PEACE, AND ITS MANDATE DATES BACK DECADES.

IN 2025 AND ONWARDS, WE MUST RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS MISSION. BY FORMING THESE AD HOC COMMITTEES AND MAKING INFORMED, INCLUSIVE DECISIONS, WE CAN WORK TOWARDS A WORLD WHERE PEACE PREVAILS, AND NO NATION OR PEOPLE SUFFER NEEDLESSLY.

### **REFORM OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

WE HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS A BODY REPRESENTING ALL MEMBER STATES. IT MUST LEAD WITH DECISIONS THAT ARE INCLUSIVE AND WIDELY RESPECTED, AS NO ONE WILL QUESTION THE PROCESS TAKEN.

THESE REFORMS SHOULD BE FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL COUNTRIES THROUGH THE REGIONS OF THE WORLD IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CREATE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE STRUCTURE.

WITHOUT SUCH REFORM, THE LEGITIMACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS BODY WILL REMAIN INCOMPLETE.



## **SUPPORT FROM OTHER UN MEETINGS**

WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO WITNESS UN HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEING HELD TO ADDRESS VARIOUS ISSUES. THESE INCLUDE THE SEVILLE AND AWAZA DECLARATIONS ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES.

WE ARE AWARE THAT FOR ANY GROWTH TO TAKE PLACE, NATIONS MUST HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

## **BETTER TOGETHER – GLOBAL COOPERATION**

AS WE CONVENE TO ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND TO UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL, WE ARE REMINDED THAT OUR WORK IS BOTH URGENT AND INDISPENSABLE.

THE THEME “**BETTER TOGETHER**” UNDERSCORES THE IMPERATIVE OF DELIVERING ON THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND REINVIGORATING GLOBAL COOPERATION.

ESWATINI CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT WORKING TOGETHER REMAINS OUR MOST POWERFUL TOOL FOR ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES THAT TRANSCEND BORDERS.

### **ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG’S**

THE WORLD STANDS AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN OUR PURSUIT OF AGENDA 2030. WITH ONLY FIVE YEARS REMAINING, WE MUST FACE THE REALITY THAT PROGRESS ON THE SDG’S IS FAR OFF TRACK.

THIS IS A SOBERING REMINDER THAT OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS MUST BE REDOUBLED, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, COOPERATION, AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY ARE MORE URGENT THAN EVER BEFORE.

THROUGH MY NATIONAL CALL TO ALL EMASWATI OF **NKWE**, FOR A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY IN THE PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE KINGDOM HAS MADE IMPORTANT STRIDES IN ADVANCING AGENDA 2030, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF THE ECONOMY IN VARIOUS SECTORS, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND GENDER EQUALITY, TO MENTION A FEW.

FURTHERMORE, THE COUNTRY'S LITERACY RATES HAVE IMPROVED, REFLECTING OUR INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION, WHILE THE NATION CONTINUES TO BE EMPOWERED THROUGH TARGETED PROGRAMMES THAT STRENGTHEN THEIR ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY AND ECONOMY.

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS DEMONSTRATE WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN DETERMINATION AND PARTNERSHIP COME TOGETHER.

WHILE WE HAVE WITNESSED THE GDP GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY, WE REMAIN WITH A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS AND WE COUNT ON THE UN FOR SUPPORT TO BECOME ONE OF THE ADVANCED ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD.

WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED INITIATIVES TO GROW OUR ECONOMY AND ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENTS BY OPENING TRADING OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THAT GIVE ACCESS TO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

### **SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCING**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, THE GLOBAL ECONOMY REMAINS FRAGILE. PERSISTENT INFLATION RESULTING IN RISING FOOD AND ENERGY PRICES, AS WELL AS TIGHTENING FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, HAVE ERODED FISCAL SPACE FOR MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS.

ACROSS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, COUNTRIES SPEND ON AVERAGE 12 PERCENT OF GOVERNMENT REVENUES ON DEBT SERVICING, DIVERTING RESOURCES URGENTLY NEEDED FOR SOCIAL COHESION PROGRAMMES.

ESWATINI ALSO ADVOCATES FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, SIMPLIFYING CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, REDUCING REGULATORY BARRIERS, AND ENABLING GREATER PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS.

IN THIS REGARD, THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA) HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BOOST INTRA-AFRICA TRADE BY UP TO 52 PERCENT, DRIVE INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND CREATE MILLIONS OF JOBS.

FOR COUNTRIES LIKE ESWATINI, THE AFCFTA OFFERS MORE THAN MARKET ACCESS. IT PROVIDES A PATHWAY TO OVERCOME GEOGRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS THROUGH REGIONAL INTEGRATION, COOPERATION, AND EFFICIENT TRADE CORRIDORS.

## **HARNESSING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

IN AN INCREASINGLY CONNECTED WORLD, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS ACTIVELY STRIVING FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AS A CATALYST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

ESWATINI IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN TECHNOLOGY AND LOOKS FORWARD TO PARTNERING AND SHARING EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN ADVANCING OUR OWN TECHNOLOGIES.

## **RIGHT TO HEALTH**

ESWATINI IS PROUD OF THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ACHIEVED UNDER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3. WE WELCOME THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE PANDEMIC TREATY.

THIS LANDMARK AGREEMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE AGAINST FUTURE HEALTH EMERGENCIES, FOSTERING EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE COOPERATION.

WE REMAIN DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DECLINE IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITIES. WEAKENING OUR JOINT EFFORTS THREATENS TO ERODE DECADES OF PROGRESS IN THIS SECTOR, AS HEALTH IS GLOBAL SECURITY.

### **DISASTER RESILIENCE**

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI RECOGNIZES THAT THE INCREASING FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF NATURAL DISASTERS, EMERGENCIES, AND PROTRACTED CRISES, HIGHLIGHT THE URGENT NEED FOR INTEGRATED RESPONSES THAT BRIDGE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE BUILDING.

WE URGENTLY NEED TO STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, AND INTEGRATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

## **EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN**

ESWATINI, LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, HAS MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND MARGINALISED GROUPS WHO FACE UNEMPLOYMENT AND INEQUALITY IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

ENSURING EMPOWERMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPLOYMENT IS OUR PRIORITY AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UN PROGRAMMES WE ARE TAKING DELIBERATE STEPS TO PROVIDE A MORE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO GUARANTEE THEIR FUTURE.

WE EQUALLY RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS AND POTENTIAL OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, WHO CONTINUE TO FACE DISPROPORTIONATE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION SO THAT THEY CAN FULLY CONTRIBUTE TO AND BENEFIT FROM NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.



## **TAIWAN**

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2758, ADOPTED IN 1971, DID NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AND IT DOES NOT PRECLUDE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE UN SYSTEM.

THE UNITED NATIONS MUST SEEK SUITABLE WAYS OF INCLUDING TAIWAN SO THAT SHE CAN BETTER CONTRIBUTE TO REALIZING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS. IN THAT WAY, THIS WILL FULFIL THE UN MANDATE TO ENSURE THAT NO COUNTRY IS LEFT BEHIND.

## **CONCLUSION**

**MADAM PRESIDENT,** IN CONCLUSION, WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE HOPES OF OUR PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN. LET US NOT LEAVE THIS ASSEMBLY WITHOUT REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, PEACE, AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS FOR ALL. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI STANDS READY TO PLAY ITS PART.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST REMAIN UNITED IN ADDRESSING SHARED GLOBAL CHALLENGES, FROM HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, UNDER THE GUIDING SPIRIT OF "BETTER TOGETHER."

**I THANK YOU – MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.**