



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REMARKS AT UNITED NATIONS DAY CONCERT
24 OCTOBER, 2005

Mr. Secretary-General, Madam Minister, Excellencies, Friends,

Today is a day of celebration. It is also a day of pause and reflection.

We celebrate the birth of the United Nations, rising from the ruins of the Second World War. The creation of the United Nations brought a vision of peace, development and a life in dignity for all in a time and in a world crying out for faith in the future.

The United Nations Charter has stood the test of time and, in fact, transcends time. It has been the foundation for the work of the United Nations family over the years to create safer and more decent living conditions for hundreds of millions of people around the world. So today is also a day to pay tribute to all those who have served the Organization with dedication and sacrifice over the last 60 years.

But today we must also pause and reflect. We live in a time of much uncertainty and distrust. Our problems are global, but we have a long way to go to unite around global solutions. Collective efforts are needed now more than ever to preserve peace, to fight poverty, diseases and oppression and to halt the degradation of our environment.

The task of our generation is clear. Guided by our Charter, and by the directions our leaders gave us this September, we must forge a United Nations which is ready and able to deal with today's global challenges. In this context, Dag Hammarskjöld's words from 1960 are no less relevant today. He said: 'We have too much in common, too great a sharing of interests and too much that we might lose together, for ourselves and for succeeding generations, ever to weaken in our efforts.'

From the very beginning of his time as Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld considered the fundamental purpose of this Organization to be the creation of a world of harmony. I hope that the performance tonight of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Stockholm will remind us of the purpose of the United Nations and give us strength and inspiration to carry on our work in the service of the peoples of the world.