



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REMARKS AT UNITED NATIONS DAY
MORNING CEREMONY IN THE VISITORS' LOBBY

24 OCTOBER, 2005

Dear Friends,

Happy birthday to all of you, representatives of “We the peoples”, for whom the United Nations was created 60 years ago. I join the Secretary-General in thanking all of you – individuals as well as representatives from Governments and civil society – for coming here today to celebrate United Nations Day.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the Mayors for Peace, the World Harmony Foundation and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney for your steadfast support to the Organization. I also would like to thank the young generation represented by the United Nations International School (UNIS) for all their fine contributions today.

Your presence reminds us what the United Nations is all about. It is about the people and about improving their living conditions, be it in terms of international peace and security, economic and social development, or human rights.

Your presence also reminds us of the outside realities. You come with messages of real concerns and problems. You also bring along your dreams and aspirations, which instill the Organization with inspiration and new energy.

The realities of the world are a constant reminder that global action and collective efforts are now needed more than ever – for all nations, big or small. A multilateral response is required for many different kinds of threats – whether they come from poverty, global diseases, violent conflicts, acts of terrorism, natural disasters or climate change.

And the central instrument of multilateralism is the United Nations. We need to work with a sense of urgency and common purpose to implement the necessary reforms to make the United Nations an even stronger and more effective actor on the international scene.

Your support of the United Nations is crucial. All of you can make a difference by championing the cause of international cooperation and solidarity. Your continued dedication to our Organization is the best birthday gift possible.