
Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by:

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Before

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I start, Mr. President, by extending my sincere congratulations to you on your election to preside over the 59 Session of the General Assembly. I also wish to congratulate other members of the Bureau for their well-deserved election.

An overall and realistic review of the current developments in international relations reveals that our world, today, faces the formidable challenge of extremism. Extremism has two distinct and yet interconnected faces: violence and terrorism of non-state actors and unbridled militarism of states. The former leads to increasing insecurity and the latter to increasing lawlessness. Insecurity is manifested in the horrendous acts of extreme violence and terrorism; whether it is in Iraq, Afghanistan or in Russia. Lawlessness is manifested in going outside of the law among nations and the UN Charter, relying on the glorification of force and the brute use of the military might. Lawless militarism of the powerful has given rise to increasing violence and terrorism and is also marketed as the panacea to them. We must be relentless against the former in a truly collective and all-inclusive manner, and shall muster the courage and national discipline to guard against the latter and remain within the confines of the law among nations.

The increasing insecurity and the escalation of acts of violence and terrorism in different parts of the world are a matter of serious concern to all of us. The recent tragic incidents in Iraq, in Baslan School in North Osetia in the Russian Federation, and state terrorism in the occupied Palestine have shocked and outraged all peoples worldwide. No rationale can justify the killing of the children and the innocents.

As terrorism has become an international challenge, an effective fight against it requires a global approach based on collective cooperation under the provisions of the UN Charter as well as the principles of the international law. We must rise above business as usual politics and avoid discrimination, double standards and selectivity in our approach to fighting this global menace. As a victim of terrorism, The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we have demonstrated our strong conviction in fighting terrorism by the arrest and hand over of the greatest number of Al-Qaeda members apprehended by any single state to date. Our conviction in fighting terrorism is unwavering. However, the prevailing international approach which is primarily a law and order approach is clearly failing to curb terrorism. We need to revisit our premises and try to develop a genuinely collective, inclusive and well-rounded and multi-disciplinary approach, if we are serious about this fight. No state can even come close to doing it alone.

The increasing lawless militarism, the second face of the challenge we encounter, is the use of brute and un-sanctioned military force to achieve some political goals, albeit desirable goals. A clear example of this lawlessness is the attack against Iraq. Attack against Iraq was illegal. I wish to thank our distinguished Secretary-General for making this statement a few days ago and courageously defending the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of law. If we, in this august body, do not collectively defend the rule of law, we have helped to send the U.N. Charter to oblivion in the interest of domination and militarism.

Mr. President,

We, in Iran, benefited greatly by the removal of Saddam Hussein. Many in Iran are joyous to see the murderer of their sons behind bar. However, as a matter of principle, as a principle of the UN Charter, this cannot but be regarded as the fruit of the forbidden tree. The international community has demonstrated that it will not celebrate achieving this desirable goal through illegal means of glorifying military power, through rushing to use force without the approval of the United Nations.

The increasing lawlessness of states constitutes even a greater danger to our security. It undermines our collective ability to contain terrorism and violence. It offsets our efforts to promote justice, equality, freedom, dignity and prosperity for all. Because, if continued, it will lower every ones quality of life and it will lower our humanity as a whole. The prevailing world realities illustrate that unbridled militarism and blind terrorism are mutually reinforcing. The international community must work together to find a way to liberate itself from this vicious cycle.

In this context, one particular area that requires resolute action by the international community is the existence and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As the only victim of the unbridled use of these weapons in recent years, Iran feels very strongly about the absolute imperative of a collective and rule based multilateral campaign to eradicate all these weapons and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as an interim measure. This must be done by the universal application of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner. The relevant multilateral instruments must become truly universal and the rights and obligations of all must be scrupulously enforced. Access to technology for peaceful purposes is the only true incentive for the universality of these instruments. At the same time, the legitimate disarmament and non-proliferation concerns of the international community must be addressed through transparency and vigorous application of monitoring mechanisms. Iran has always been prepared to contribute actively to this global effort. While we insist on our right to technology for peaceful purposes, we have and will leave no stone unturned in order to provide assurances of our peaceful intentions.

Iran has been in the forefront of efforts to establish a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This initiative which has received the repeated approval of this august Assembly and the Security Council has been systematically

obstructed by Israel's intransigence and its rejection of all multilateral instruments, regrettably with impunity. All countries of the region and beyond are unanimous in considering Israeli arsenal, including its weapons of mass destruction, combined with its policy and record of aggression and state terrorism as the single greatest threat to regional and global peace and security. Israel cannot hide these facts behind smoke screens. It is time for the international community to show its resolve to maintain the credibility of multilateral disarmament instruments by taking action to compel Israel to comply.

Mr. President

Next year will mark the 60th Anniversary of the coming into force of the UN Charter. In retrospect, we may ask this basic question as to how much the provisions of this Charter have been translated into action or how hard the signatories have tried to implement this universal instrument during the past 60 years. We may go even further and ask if the provisions of the UN Charter have not been ignored or neglected more in this decade than in the half century preceding it.

The next General Assembly will receive the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. Now, in the final stages of preparing its report, the Panel will be well-advised to go beyond the generally advertised perceptions of threats and challenges, and to address the more fundamental malady of our age: that is violence and glorification of military might. Obviously, the prescription that the Group will provide will very much depend on its own perception of threats.

In this context, the paradigm of Dialogue among Civilizations presented by President Khatami of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and warmly received by the international community, continues to provide the only vehicle to help to promote mutual understanding and facilitate cooperation among states in the pursuit of peace, tolerance freedom and prosperity. In 2005, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Charter, the implementation of the Global Agenda on the Dialogue among Civilizations will be reviewed. Based on the international experience gained in the period from 2001 through 2005, such a review can help the international community to further advance this paradigm as a long-term process to promote peace, democracy and development, which are the real principles and objectives of the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

Iran's view of the way we got here in Iraq is clear. How do we approach the situation in Iraq now? The Iraqi dictator is gone and the Iraqi people are to begin to take control of their lives and destiny. They continue to experience violence and insecurity nevertheless. We condemn all acts of violence and terrorism in Iraq. We stress the need for promoting security, preserving the unity, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq, promoting democracy through drafting a new constitution, holding free and fair elections as scheduled and accelerating the reconstruction in Iraq as well as the speedy withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraq.

We welcomed the formation and supported the operation of the Iraqi transitional government as a positive step towards the restoration of the Iraqi people's sovereignty. We underline that the UN has a pivotal role to play and substantial responsibilities to discharge in the transitional period. In this connection, the compliance with the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the enhancement of the pivotal role of the United Nations and UN Secretary General and his special representative for Iraq is the best option and approach to restore peace and security in that country. We also welcome the position of the UN Secretary General on the important role that Iraq's neighboring countries can play in the restoration of peace and stability in Iraq and in its reconstruction.

Mr. President,

In Palestinian lands, the world is witnessing, with much regret and concern, the continued gross violation of human rights and Israeli policy of occupation and repression against the oppressed Palestinian people. The massacre of the defenseless Palestinian people, the state policy of assassination of Palestinian political and religious figures, the demolition of residential areas, administrative buildings and hospitals, the economic blockade of Palestinian neighborhoods, annexation of the occupied lands, continued construction of Jewish settlements, pursuit of racist policies aimed at beleaguering the Palestinian residential areas, forced immigration of Palestinians to places outside their homeland and the construction of the wall to terrorize the Palestinian people and deprive them from their basic needs are clear examples of Israeli violation of the provisions of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN resolutions and other rules of international law. Meanwhile, the exercise of the veto power in the UN Security council has impeded international efforts to stop the Israeli crimes and kept this organization from performing its duty to address threats to international peace and security.

A durable peace in Palestine will be possible only if it is based on justice and guarantees and end to the occupation of the Palestinian lands, restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, return of the Palestinian Diaspora to their homeland, participation of all in a democratic process and the establishment of a Palestinian State with Al-Qods Al-Sharif as its capital. We are of the view that the enlightened Palestinian people are capable of deciding independently about their political and social affairs and we respect their free decisions on the future of Palestine.

Mr. President,

We welcome the valuable efforts by the Government of Afghanistan in consolidation of peace, security and stability in the country. Significant progress has been made in the areas of public administration, fiscal management and social developments. In the same spirit, the recent massive public participation of Afghan people in voter registration has been a remarkable and unprecedented success story in Afghanistan – pointing clearly to the fact that they are able and willing to take control of their lives and determine their own destiny. The process of voter registration of Afghan refugees in Iran

for absentee ballots was successfully concluded and well received by the Afghans. Holding fair and free presidential and legislative elections and establishing a broad-based, representative and multi-ethnic government will be a vital step along the process of democratization and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan continues to face security challenges in terms of a recent increase in terrorist and criminal activities as well as factional violence, which has also affected its Western boarder areas. Furthermore, continued attacks on humanitarian personnel, drug trafficking and other operations to undermine the progress of the electoral process continue to be matters of concern in Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

Realization of the Millennium Declaration Goals is inseparable from viable international peace and security. Otherwise, political, social, economic and cultural problems of our world will continue to increase cumulatively, leaving us in a more desperate situation. In our view, the only option available to us is to foster closer international cooperation under internationally recognized rules and instruments in the light of dialogue, justice and democracy.