



REPUBLIC
OF
KENYA



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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

DURING
THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF
THE

**59TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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The **NAIROBI SUMMIT**
on a Mine-Free World
29 Nov. — 3 Dec.
2004

First Review Conference of
the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction

***Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I am honored to address the General Assembly for the first time. On behalf of my delegation, and on my own behalf, I convey to you, Mr. President, our warm congratulations on your election and other members of the Bureau to steer the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am confident that with your experience and professionalism, you will lead us to a fruitful conclusion of this Session. I also would like to pay tribute to H.E. Mr. Julian Hunte for his outstanding performance as President of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

United Nations Reforms

Mr. President,

Kenya is convinced that a vibrant, responsive and representative United Nations system is the desire of all Member States. My delegation welcomes the ongoing efforts to re-organize and revitalize the United Nations to make it more effective and efficient. The revitalization exercise must reaffirm the status of the General Assembly as the pre-eminent policy-making organ of the United Nations as envisaged by the UN Charter. With respect to the Security Council, it should be enlarged, democratized, and made representative to reflect the Organization's membership in the 21st Century. We look forward to the findings of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, appointed by the Secretary-General, during last year's General Assembly.

Mr. President,

I pay tribute to H. E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General for his commitment and efforts to enhance the capacity of United Nations Offices, and in particular the United Nations Offices in Nairobi (UNON), the only UN Headquarters in a developing country. We are encouraged to note that during the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, budgetary provisions were made for improving and modernizing conference facilities at the Nairobi Office.

However, there is still a great deal to be done. We urge the Secretary-General to significantly increase the regular budget component of funding the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to bring it in line with the administrative and financial arrangements of similar UN Offices at Geneva and Vienna.

Landmines Conference

Mr. President,

Let me turn to an issue of great importance to the international community. The production, stockpiling, transfer and use of anti-personnel landmines is a problem of major proportions which has caused untold suffering to populations world-wide. With respect to this problem, Africa is the most mine-affected continent. Kenya has been bestowed with the honour to host the First Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). The Conference, also known as the "Nairobi Summit 2004 on a Mine-Free World", will be held from November 29 to December 3, 2004. Among the scheduled events will be Pre-Conference Ceremonies on November 28, 2004, presided over by the President of the Republic of Kenya, the Honourable Mwai Kibaki who has extended invitations to World Leaders to attend the Conference. I take this opportunity to welcome each and everyone of you to participate at the highest possible level at the Conference. I encourage you to take advantage of your presence in Nairobi to sample Kenya's hospitality and particularly the world famous Safari and the sandy beaches along Kenya's Coast.

Peace Process

Mr. President,

International peace, security and stability are pre-requisite for sustainable development. Kenya recognized early that peace and stability should be the cornerstone of both our national and foreign policies. Consequently, Kenya has taken an active part in the search for peaceful solution to conflicts in our sub-region, Africa and the rest of the world. Within the framework of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Kenya is chairing the Southern Sudan Peace Process and the Somali Reconciliation Process. I am pleased to report that on the Sudan Peace Process, milestone achievements

have been realized since the signing of the first protocols in 2002. The Nairobi Declaration on the final phase in the Sudan was signed on June 5, 2004.

Although the process has been long and tedious, the prospects for a final peace agreement are within reach for the two-decade long conflict. I would like to appeal to the international community to redouble its support and commitment in assisting the people of the Sudan to achieve peace through constructive dialogue. It is also my hope that events in the Darfur region will not subsume the positive developments achieved by the Naivasha process. However, post-conflict reconstruction will require considerable resources. The international community must stand-up to this challenge.

Mr. President,

As regards the Somali Peace Process, I am pleased to report encouraging developments in the past few weeks which indicate a willingness by the people of Somalia to embrace peace after 14 years of turmoil. In mid August, two hundred and seventy five Members of Parliament were elected by representatives of the Somali people, and the Transitional Federal Parliament of the Somali Republic inaugurated on August 29, 2004 in Nairobi. Subsequently, the Parliament elected its Speaker on September 15, 2004. It is expected that the President will be elected next month. The process has been long and costly but through determination and optimism, we hope to witness the installation of a Federal Government of Somalia by the end of the year. The presence of a new Government in Mogadishu however, should not be an end in itself, but the beginning of a long journey towards peace, stability and development.

I appeal to the international community and especially the United Nations, to move with speed and provide the necessary support for capacity-building, for infrastructure, security and other logistical support for the new Government. I would like to express Kenya's gratitude for the assistance provided by IGAD Partners Forum (IPF), the United Nations and the international community as a whole, in support of both Peace Processes.

Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Mr. President,

Long running conflicts in our sub-region have led to the proliferation of small

arms and light weapons which constitute major security concerns to my country and others. For this reason, Kenya has been at the forefront of regional initiatives to combat the menace. In March 2000, Kenya hosted the First Ministerial Conference, which produced the Nairobi Declaration on the problem of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. In April this year, Kenya hosted the Second Ministerial Review Conference of the Nairobi Declaration, which adopted the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons. These efforts are intended to consolidate a regional framework within which to deal with the problem of proliferation in order to improve security to enable the people of the region to re-direct their energies and resources towards meaningful economic activities.

Kenya, therefore, welcomes and fully supports the convening of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region on Conflict and Development, scheduled for November 17-20, 2004, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. My delegation applauds the United Nations and the African Union for mobilizing support and resources for the preparations of the Conference.

International Terrorism

Mr. President,

The threat of international terrorism remains real. We unreservedly condemn all acts of international terrorism. On behalf of my delegation and the Kenyan people, I extend our sympathy to the Government and people of Russia on the recent barbaric terrorist attack on innocent school children, parents and teachers in Baslan. Kenya has been a victim of terrorist attacks in the recent past. We are, therefore, more convinced of the need to address this issue collectively. No single country, however resourceful, has the capacity to successfully deal with it on its own. I would like to assure you that Kenya fully supports international efforts in dealing with this problem. Collective efforts to address the issue must be through international co-operation, information and intelligence sharing, co-ordinated by the United Nations.

Peacekeeping

Mr. President,

In line with the international efforts to ensure that peace and security prevails, we welcome the decision by the African Union to establish a standby African

Force. Kenya has been honoured to host one of the Regional Centres namely the Eastern Africa Brigade. We are ready to provide the requisite facilities and logistical support to the Centre. On the international arena, Kenya has long been a major troop contributing country in peacekeeping operations and will continue to actively participate with other nations under the aegis of the United Nations. We call upon the international community to assist the African Union in order to realize the establishment of the force, which will be one of the key tools for ensuring peace and stability on the continent.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Mr. President,

Poverty remains a major impediment to sustainable development particularly for developing countries. Current trends indicate that countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will not meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015. We emphasize the importance of the fulfillment of the eighth Millennium Development Goal on global partnership for development, and especially the realization of 0.7% of GNP target as Official Development Assistance (ODA) by developed countries. We, therefore, look forward to the outcome of the 2005 High-Level Plenary of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major UN Conferences and Summits in the economic, social, and related fields, including the Millennium Declaration.

The attainment of the MDGs will depend on how effectively we deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other related communicable diseases among other problems. In Sub-Saharan Africa, this has resulted in a reversal of economic and social gains made over the years. Governments need to develop strategic plans which identify key priority response areas such as prevention and advocacy, treatment, care and support. Also important is the mitigation of the socio-economic impact and research. We are grateful to our development partners and the UN Global Fund for support and provision of resources in fighting these diseases. We look forward to their continued assistance.

Regional Co-operation

Mr. President,

At the regional level, tremendous progress has been made towards regional economic integration. The East African community Customs Union Protocol

which was signed on 2nd March 2004 by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania intends to create a single investment and trade area. We hope that this positive development will encourage Local and Foreign Direct Investment into the sub-region.

We welcome the support accorded to the NEPAD initiative by the United Nations and the G-8 countries. However, I regret to note that the commitments made to the NEPAD initiative have not been fully realized and call upon our development partners to fulfill their pledges.

Food Security, Promotion of Children's Welfare and Women Empowerment

Mr. President

This year, Kenya is faced with a severe famine caused by drought which has affected a large section of the population. Consequently, Kenya and the United Nations issued a Joint Appeal for Assistance to contain the famine. We are grateful for the prompt response from the World Food Programme, UNICEF, FAO, the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and bilateral donors. However, the need for more assistance still exists.

For long-term economic stability and development, the Government has embarked on an Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation aimed at revitalizing the economy and enhancing the welfare of our people. Other measures have been taken to improve the well-being of the Kenyan people. These include improvement and promotion of the welfare of children through free and compulsory primary education and the recognition of the central role played by women in development.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the important role the United Nations plays in global affairs. This could be greatly enhanced through adherence to the provisions of the Charter and to the Rule of Law. Member States should respect these instruments in the conduct of their international relations.

Thank you!