

Sultanate of Oman



سلطنة عمان

Statement

Of

H.E. MR. YOUSEF BIN ALAWI BIN ABDULLAH

**The Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
of the Sultanate of Oman**

And

**Head of the Omani Delegation
to the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, I am pleased to congratulate you on your election as President of this session. Furthermore, I would like to assure you that we will sincerely co-operate with you to contribute to the success of the session and the realization of the desirable objectives to which we all aspire in order to serve humanity and for the peace and security of international community.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to his Excellency Mr. Julian Robert Hunte, President of the previous session for all the efforts he made to ensure the success of that session and the special sessions held during the year.

Mr. President,

This session of the General Assembly has opened under very complicated and difficult circumstances resulting from a clear decline in the ability of the international community to pull its ranks together and reach a consensus on solutions for the many diverse problems which have undermined international diplomacy and deprived it of the preventive capabilities that could help create an environment of international

understanding conducive to an agreement on the magnitude and value of the common interests of all peoples.

We believe that there is an urgent need to call on the international community to review both regional and international policies and put an end to the uncomfortable feelings of uncertainty, pessimism and vagueness surrounding the work of the United Nations. States that influence international policy have a moral and material responsibility to take the initiative to review these policies and create an environment of co-operation among various groups of global interests.

Mr. President,

The Middle East region is the focus of global attention, in view of its potential impact on international stability. We share the interest shown by many countries in the situation in the Middle East based on the need to find solutions to the political and social problems facing the region. Here, it is worth noticing that the eight powers in their meeting in Sea Island in the State of Georgia in the USA on June 9, 2004 have focused their interest on the Middle East. In principle, we welcome their position since we believe that closer co-operation among the group of Eight and the countries of the Middle East in the study of how to give priority to the discussion of the political questions which are the main obstacle to the march of the people of the Middle East towards development and stability is essential.

The problem of Palestine and Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories in Syria and Lebanon cannot be put on the back-burner indefinitely. Therefore, we should seek fair and just solutions for these problems. The "road map" plan declared on April 30, 2003 which has been positively received by the Arab countries is still without implementation. That is why we call on the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the European Union and the United Nations, members of the quartet that sponsored the road map to carry out this commitment on the Middle East.

Mr. President,

The Security Council has adopted resolution 1546 by which it transferred sovereignty in Iraq from the coalition forces to an interim Iraqi government and which constitute an important stage in the situation of Iraq. Yet the security situation in Iraq is still unstable, something that causes deep concern. We believe that the Iraqi government is making great efforts to get the situation back to normal. We support the government of Iraq in its endeavors aimed at unifying all Iraqis around a common agenda. Certain successes have been achieved through adoption of political dialogue and a wider sense become urgently essential in Iraq.

Mr. President,

In the Sudan, the government has been making commendable efforts to achieve stability in Darfur. We look forward for the continuation of cooperation between the African Union and the Sudanese government, its acceptance for the implementation of certain measures proposed by the

United Nations and its willingness to cooperate with the Security Council to implement Resolution No. 1564(2004) deserves our support.

In our view, the United Nations should provide financial and technical support to the efforts of the African Union to achieve peace in Darfur. Moreover, we believe that any action by the Security Council against the Sudan would be harmful and would undermine the United Nations ability to work effectively, in addition, would hamper the efforts of the Sudan and the African Union to achieve peace.

Mr. President,

All humans share this earth and should work together to develop and preserve its resources. It is highly important that the international community should take note of the environmental changes taking place everywhere, such as the destructive storms, floods and fires which have tremendous harmful effects on all humanity. These phenomena may be caused by human transgression and destruction of environmental diversity. That is why the international community is called upon to study the environment and do whatever it can to stem the phenomenon of desertification and drought in order to preserve great global sources of food.

Mr. President,

Recent international policies have resulted in the emergence of serious types of terrorist acts. One of the largest of such terrorist actions has been the hostage-taking in the Beslan School in Northern Ossetia in the Russian

Federation. We strongly condemn this terrorist act and express our solidarity with the Russian government in fighting such attacks.

We believe that the international community should show solidarity in the face of terrorism everywhere and study these phenomena in a deep manner. The convening of an international conference to consider these terrorist phenomena is a good idea since the results of the work of such a conference could be an important tool that would help defeat terrorism.

Mr. President,

The Sultanate believes that accession by States to disarmament treaties and conventions would enhance and maintain international peace and security. In this context, we should seriously consider the possibility of establishing collective mechanisms for arms monitoring and control, based on unified standards acceptable to all, be it in the field of weapons of mass destruction or that of conventional weapons. Otherwise the role of the world order will remain limited to theoretical studies or drawing attention to the dangers of the arms race, to development, the environment or international peace and security.

The world stock of weapons of mass destruction and in particular nuclear weapons runs the risk of destroying human life on our planet many times over. That is why the Sultanate of Oman has signed most conventions on disarmament and arms control, including the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, and the Convention on the prohibition of biological weapons.

Mr. President,

The emergence of globalization and with it the World Trade Organization raised the hopes and aspirations of peoples for an era of international co-operation that would promote sustainable development. However, the results of the new developments has been a mix of democracy and dictatorship, human rights and enslavement, great prosperity and extreme poverty, provision of advanced health care side by side with fatal contagious diseases, a mix of free trade and world monopoly. These mixed results lead to economic non-balances, is this what we aspire to achieve as a goal?

Mr. President,

Wide-ranging consultations are going on among United Nations Member States, with a view to restructure the bodies of the Organization. The High Level Committee on reform was established in the context of an initiative by his Excellency the Secretary General of the U.N. for the development of the Organization, and in particular the increase of the membership of the Security Council to expand the base of participation in decision making in the Security Council. However, the permanent members should work to create an international climate conducive to an expansion that reflects the international will. Conditions of membership should be reviewed to include things that conform to international changes, to

guarantee the required and possible representation with a view to achieving an international consensus.

We believe that it is high time for permanent members of the Security Council to review their own attitudes and policies in the Security Council. This could facilitate the required restructuring. We believe that the excessive adoption of Security Council resolutions on secondary international issues undermines the prestige of the Council and reduces the ability of the United Nations to deal with priority questions that are important to international peace and security. In our view, the council should steer away from the interference in the internal affairs of member States, in order to preserve international consensus in dealing with international questions relating to international peace and security.

Mr. President,

The Sultanate of Oman would like to reaffirm its support of the work of the United Nations and would, in particular, underline its support of his Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations and the role he plays in conducting the affairs of this Organization.

Our delegation will do its best to ensure the success of this session in order to realize the objectives to which we all aspire.

Thank you Mr. President and may peace be upon you.