



*Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and
International Cooperation*

Statement

By

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Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure at the outset to affirm the confidence of my country's delegation that the Swedish leadership of the work of this session will help us achieve the best results. I also seize this occasion to commend the efforts made by Gabon, represented in its foreign minister, as it undertook the leadership of the previous session of the General Assembly.

I would like also to reiterate our gratitude for the efforts made by Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, to advance the march of UN reform, and to achieve the goals embedded in its charter.

Mr. President,

Since the mid seventies, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been fully aware of the necessity to reform the United Nations. She was in fact the first state which put forward official proposals to the General Assembly in this regard. Draft resolutions had been presented to all the sessions of the General Assembly, from the thirty fourth to the fortieth, aiming at the reform of the Security Council, and the abolishment of the Veto privilege. Although the Libyan proposals had not been successful because of the objection by the superpowers, they did create a wide spread understanding for this issue inside the General Assembly, which resulted in the issuance of a resolution in its forty seventh session establishing an open ended group to review the issue of fair representation in the Security Council, and increasing its membership. We participated actively in the group's work, but its activities ended in an impasse.

We felt hopeful throughout last year, as we conducted consultations on all levels to reach a radical reform for the United Nations, in service of international peace and security. However, as the date of our meeting on the summit level, at the beginning of this session, approached, it became evident that the reform we sought to achieve remains much illusive. This is due to the fact that some of the privileged powers in the Security Council do not wish to give up their privileges, in fact not even to share these privileges with other states.

Mr. President,

The victorious countries in world war two imposed rights and privileges for themselves, at the time of writing the charter, which led to the marginalization of the General Assembly and rendered the Security Council a domineering body, both inequitable and unbalanced. Moreover, the council is not democratic in character, and

the Veto privilege has been much abused. The United Nations, therefore, has been unable to administer justice; in fact some of its decisions inflicted harm on some peoples.

As we discuss UN reform, we should take into consideration that the number of its members has now reached 191 states. New global problems have emerged, in addition to old ones. This makes it necessary to place the power of decision making in the hands of all members of the United Nations, i.e. in the hands of the General Assembly, in which all states have equal votes. However, if we could not reach an agreement on this, we should seek a new formula for permanent membership in the Security Council.

In this respect, we propose that the permanent membership be accorded to geographical groups, rather than to specific states. We also propose that the African union be granted permanent membership even before the comprehensive reform has been decided, given the fact that the African continent is the only continent which does not enjoy permanent membership in the Security Council.

We as a member of the African Union affirm our adherence to the common African position, adopted by the fifth African summit conference, held in Sid on the 4th and 5th of July, 2005. This position was confirmed in the special summit of the African union held in Addis Ababa, on August 4, 2005.

Mr. President,

Libya believes that the removal of weapons of mass destruction is a fundamental factor in confidence building and the consolidation of international peace and security. Out of this belief, Libya declared on the 19th of December, 2003, its voluntary relinquishment of the programs and tools which could lead to the production of internationally prohibited weapons, and their means of delivery. Since that date, it has been cooperating most transparently with the International Agency of Atomic Energy and the Organization of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. All relevant materials and equipment have been disposed of with the knowledge of experts from the Agency and the Organization.

Libya is now a party in all international conventions on weapons of mass destruction, as well as the code of ethics concerning ballistic missiles. We hope that members of the international community will cooperate in a better manner to discard weapons of mass destruction, acquired by all states, without discrimination, in order to create a world in which peace and security prevail.

The Libyan declaration has been a culmination for previous Libyan efforts taken in this field, starting from effective participation in the establishment of a nuclear free

zone in Africa, through the accession to **Blendaba** Convention and the call to make the Middle East a nuclear free zone.

While we affirm our readiness to continue our full cooperation with international organizations in this field, we would like to emphasize Libya's right to the expansion of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for development, particularly in the field of medicine, agriculture, desalination, and mining. We call for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Libyan students who wish to study some of these fields in certain countries. We also hope that we will be able to import the necessary equipment for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and that we will receive assistance in transforming our installations for peaceful purposes.

We also sincerely hope that the Libyan initiative will set an example to be followed by all countries in the area, particularly the government of Tel Aviv, prompting them to dispose of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to place their nuclear installations under the control of the safe guards regime of the International Agency of Atomic Energy.

Mr. President,

My country has been increasingly concerned over the last few years with the issue of the enforcement of human rights on both national and international levels. We have dealt transparently with the wishes of the non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights and we have contributed the amount of two million Dinars to support the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We are currently reviewing some of the legislations which do not seem to conform to the international conventions in the field of human rights. The People's Court, established in the early years of the Revolution, has been abolished, and its jurisdiction assigned to normal courts.

Mr. President,

Libya has been among the first states which called for the coordination of the international efforts made to combat international terrorism. Moreover, Libya called for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to study this phenomenon and develop the measures aiming at combating it and eradicating its causes.

Libya has condemned terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, and has also ratified all international and regional conventions concerning terrorism. Moreover, we cooperate fully with the committee established by the Security Council for this purpose. We believe that the eradication of terrorism requires that we take the necessary

action to eliminate its causes. Among such actions, we should actively reinforce human rights for all peoples and suppress all acts of aggression and occupation, fight poverty, and encourage democracy.

Terrorism can not be eradicated by unilateral actions taken by one state or a group of states, nor can this problem be solved by linking it with a certain religion or nationality. Furthermore, it is not fair that the legitimate struggle of peoples to achieve self determinations and independence be classified as terrorism. We must all endeavor to coordinate our efforts under the umbrella of the united nation to combat terrorism, and we must complete as early as possible the comprehensive counter terrorism treaty.

Mr. President,

As you know, the Lockerbie question was one of the issues put before the Security Council. This issue has been fully settled with the concerned parties, and the Security Council issued resolution No.1506 (2003) which stipulated the immediate lifting of the sanctions imposed on Libya, and to remove the issue from the list of issues of which the council remained seized. As you may also recall, those sanctions resulted in huge material losses, reaching approximately 40 billion dollars, and I wish in this respect to thank all the countries which stood by our side and supported our position.

Today, as we have this issue behind us, our relations with the concerned countries are gradually improving. We sincerely hope that the United States of America will soon put an end to the measures taken against Libya which impede the establishment of normal relations between the two countries, based on mutual understanding and respect, which will eventually lead to the achievement of the common interests of both the Libyan and the American peoples.

Mr. President,

The competent Libyan authorities are in the process of developing plans for the restructuring of the Libyan economy, reviewing the public sector, encouragement of the private sector, and giving it the opportunity to engage in all economic activities. Economic policies which aim at the advancement of the national economy, remedying its deficiencies, and the improvement of its performance have been adopted. Certain measures in the monetary policy have been taken, such as the adoption of single exchange rate for the Libyan Dinar against foreign currencies, the abolishment of monetary control, and the reduction of income taxes. Import and export licenses, as well as customs guarantees on exports have been also abolished. Customs fees on approximately 3500 imported items have been also removed. Prohibitions on the exportation of certain items have been narrowed to a very minimum range. A draft

competition law is being prepared. Important steps have also been taken to privatize public sector companies, some of which have been offered for joint operation with foreign investors.

A law for the encouragement of foreign investment has been issued. This law gives foreign investors many privileges and exemptions, and permits them to own enterprises fully (100%) or in partnership with national investors.

We have also submitted an application to join the World Trade Organization, which was approved by the Organization's board unanimously on 27th July 2004. We seek the further cooperation of all countries in this respect.

We, as a developing country, look forward to joining this organization, hoping it will assist us in the achievement of economic development, diversification of economic development, and strengthening relations with the Organization members to achieve the common interests of all.

Mr. President,

Consolidation of peace and the achievement of security for all is a fundamental goal of the United Nations. The Organization can not achieve this goal without the assistance and cooperation of all its members, which can be a most effective tool in solving the most recalcitrant problems. Out of this belief, Libya has contributed to numerous efforts to settle disputes and conflicts between several states, particularly in Africa. In this respect, we wish to express our satisfaction with the stabilization of the situation in Sierra Leon and Angola, the improvement of the situation in Somalia, Burundi, and the Democratic republic of Congo, as well as the signing of the peace agreement in Sudan. We call on all member states to assist the African Union in its attempts to face the various challenges and to create a unified African continent, capable of achieving progress, participating effectively in the human march towards progress, achievement of victory for freedom and human rights, eradication of wars and poverty, fighting diseases, and removal of the detrimental effects of colonialism. We hope that support will be given to the plans of the African union aiming at the achievement of prosperity for all African people through the provision of assistance to NEPAD.

Mr. President,

The international community has failed to provide a solution for the Palestinian problem, which is as old as the establishment of the UN. In fact, this problem is getting worse. For half a century, the Palestinian people have lived either as refugees all over the world or subject to the practices of an occupying power which has usurped its land. They

continue to suffer from horrible crimes as children, women and old people are killed, lands confiscated, farms burned, trees uprooted, and houses destroyed on the heads of their dwellers so that homes be built on their ruins for settlers coming from all over the world. Moreover, most sophisticated weapons are used against civilians, with the Security Council incapable of taking any concrete action to stop such practices. This has encouraged the occupying power to continue its aggression and crimes, heedless of the decisions of the international community.

The suffering of the Palestinian people requires that urgent and firm action be taken which will put an end to the Israeli aggression; provide full international protection for the Palestinians, and a radical solution for the Palestinian question.

We think that the solution can not be imposed by the acceptance of the *de facto* situation, and the issuance of inapplicable decisions. There has to be a radical solution which guarantees the return of all Palestinian refugees to their lands, and the establishment of a democratic state on the land of historical Palestine in which Jews and Arabs alike live, enjoying full equality, similar to the South African model, as blacks and whites reconciled after decades of conflict and bloodshed. Unless this is achieved, with support from the international community, the suffering of the Palestinian people will continue, and the area will remain in a state of tension and conflict, with peace and security enjoyed by no one.

The Israeli occupation forces must withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, with the Golan Heights returning to Syrian sovereignty, and the Shabaa farms to Lebanon.

In Iraq, where the international law has been violated, and the country subjected to occupation on the basis of flimsy evidence, proved to be untrue, the tragedy is escalating daily, getting more and more difficult to solve. The Iraqi people pay an exorbitant price with the lives of its sons and daughters because of the continuing occupation. We must make all efforts possible to guarantee a speedy end to the occupation, enable Iraq to regain its independence and sovereignty, and preserve its territorial integrity and Arab identity. Furthermore, the Iraqis must be enabled to control their resources, determine freely their destiny, and participate fully in the government of their country, with no marginalization of any group, so that peace, prosperity and security might prevail all over the country.

Thank you, Mr. President.