



CAMEROON



DECLARATION DE
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auprès des Nations Unies

**AU DEBAT GENERAL DE LA 61^e SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE DES NATIONS UNIES**

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STATEMENT BY
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to the United Nations

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 61st SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 27 September 2006

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**Madam President
Royal Highnesses,**

Excellencies Mss and Mrs Heads of State and Government

Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, permit me, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, to commend the Kingdom of Bahrain, a friendly country, for presiding, through the person of Madame HAYA RASHED AL KHALIFA, the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I assure you, Madame President, of our sincere wishes for success as well as of the full cooperation and support of my delegation.

In the same vein, permit me also to pay tribute to the Kingdom of Sweden, a friendly nation whose Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. JAN ELIASSON, assumed with great mastery, the presidency of the 60th Session, during which important progress has been made.

Finally, I should like to wish a warm welcome to Montenegro into the family of “peoples of the United Nations”.

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current session of the General Assembly is taking place at a moment when the world is facing major challenges. These include:

- Terrorism that is affecting the internal stability of States as well as our collective security;**
- The ongoing underdevelopment and quasi-endemic poverty in developing countries;**
- All kinds of pandemics, among which HIV/AIDS;**
- And, last but not the least, trans border organized crime.**

Under these circumstances, our world and our Organization need more generosity, more solidarity, more ethics and tolerance, but more so courage and an innovation spirit to tackle these challenges, in as much as they require a comprehensive solution, within the multilateral framework than can be offered only by the United Nations.

There are here some opinions deploring the inability of our Organization to meet the fundamental aspirations of people. Others underline what they thing is the obsolescence of the same Organization.

For its part Cameroon reaffirms that the United Nations continues to be, today more than ever, the only arena which, despite short comings, inevitable for an Institution of this size, can generate consensus to ease tension and offer acceptable solutions. There is no substitute to the United Nations itself that can tackle, in a coherent way, the numerous problems earlier mentioned.

In this regard, I would like to pay special tribute to the work of KOFI ANNAN, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and assure him once again of my personal esteem,

my appreciation for his endeavours and the gratitude of my country. On the line of his predecessors, he rejuvenated multilateralism in a very difficult international environment. Cameroon is proud to have contributed for the election of this noble Son of Africa, while assuming the chairmanship of the Organization of Africa Unity, today, when peace appears as a fading myth according to many, Africa cannot but feel honored that Mr. KOFI ANNAN is among the great artisans of peace in the world.

In this regard the Noble Peace Prize he received is well deserved.

Mister Secretary General,

In an international environment characterized by difficulty for law to prevail over the use of force, you have courageously been able to promote moderation. In an environment of passions, you have succeeded in delivering the message of peace and fraternity. May I, as eloquent testimony to this cite, among others, your commitment, with Cameroon and Nigeria, two brotherly countries linked by History and Geography, to the peaceful and consensual implementation of the ICJ ruling of 10 October 2002 over the border dispute between these two countries.

The Greentree Agreement of June 12, 2006, implemented following the withdrawal of Nigerian troops on August 14, 2006 is to the credit of the United Nations as well as to your personal commitment. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank friendly countries, namely the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom. Alongside the United Nations, these countries accepted to bring their moral and political support to the GREENTREE Agreement for the implementation of the ICJ ruling of October 10, 2002 over Bakassi. I would like also here and now to renew Cameroon's solemn commitment to fulfill all her obligations deriving from the ICJ Decision of October 2002 and of the Greentree Agreement. In particular, I would like to give the guaranty that those of the Nigerian nationals currently living in Bakassi and who are willing to remain there will enjoy the same treatment like the four million and five hundred thousand Nigerians living in Cameroon and who carry out their activities in safe conditions, perfect harmony and fraternity with Cameroonians.

What this process teaches us is that a true and lasting peace cannot be imposed. A true and lasting peace is built up through patience and moderation that can derive only from a real and shared political will.

Mr. Secretary General,

Permit me to highlight some of the many initiatives taken by the United Nations, and which reflect a just perception of the ongoing geopolitical developments and people's aspirations of the world.

Among these, I would like to enlist the Millennium Declaration, a real charter of international solidarity, which is binding on us out as an ardent obligation. Furthermore, the solicitude of the United Nations in favor of Africa is well reflected through your report entitled "Report on causes of conflicts and sustainable Development in Africa" a document, which will remain for us a great source of inspiration.

I must also remind that you have laid the bases of a re-foundation of our Organization, rendered inevitable especially following the changes that occur since its creation, in the balance of power at the global level.

This is why, Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would want to say a few words about what is to come to be known as the United Nations Reforms.

Our Organization can retain its place in the management of the world only if it preserves its legitimacy that is if its representativity is not contested. Hence, the envisaged reform should take into account the evolution of the international system over the recent past decades. In like manner, there is a need for some organs of the United Nations system to be overhauled. This is, for instance the case for the International Court of Justice. It is in the interest of all for this reform to be undertaken in view of the present day reality.

Whatever the case, it seems to me that Africa should be represented on a permanent base in the future Security Council. It is not only a matter of justice, but also of common sense.

To retain its credibility, our Organization must continue with determination its action on major issues related to peace and development in the Third World. In the political realm, a special attention ought to be paid to the Middle East, Darfur and to the nuclear proliferation. As for development, the millennium development goals should be attained in a reasonable time laps. To avoid the repudiation of the positive aspects of globalization, the United Nations has also the responsibility to maintain a balance between rich and poor countries, especially within the framework of international trade negotiations, such as the now suspended Doha Round. A failure would generate negative results for Africa. Last but not the least, the United Nation should ensure the protection of the cultural identity of various people of the World and should favor dialogue between cultures. Mutual knowledge and sharing will be the best remedy to the “clash of civilization” predicted by some, and the only alternative to terrorism and violence.

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With time, the United Nations appears as a major actor of international life. I believe that all of us should commend that. First, because “this global parliament” is the only place where all people are represented and where a scheme of an international democracy is gradually set. Secondly, this is because the comprehensive review of conflicts and issues gives a chance to negotiation at the expense of the use of force.

Indeed, we have not garnered only success. But I believe that the overall balance is positive. For this, we should not refrain or bargain our confidence vis-à-vis the United Nations. We should give to the United Nations the means it needs to fulfill its ambitious and task. For its part, Cameroon will continue to lend support to all United Nations initiatives for peace and solidarity among peoples.

Do I need to stress that the Human Person should be placed at the forefront of our preoccupations. This will be in particular the task of the newly erected Human Rights Council of which Cameroon is member. The United Nations must not be indifferent to the tragedy of massive migrations underway. No doubt this situation is a daunting task for

each of our Governments, but it is also up to the entire international community to reinforce cooperation in this domain between rich and poor countries.

Despite all appearances and in spite of numerous tensions and threats, in my opinion, the international community seems to gain more stability. For a large part the merit belongs to the United Nations, to its various organs and to its personnel who perform their duties under, sometimes very difficult or even hazardous circumstances.

I wish to convey to them the gratitude of my country.

Thank you for your attention.-