



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM  
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**PRIME MINISTER**

**OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

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**Madam President,**  
**Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,**  
**Your Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan,**  
**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

My delegation associates itself with the compliments extended to you, on your election to the presidency of this session, to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan. It would be remiss of us if we did not express our delight at the fact that, this year, our proceedings are led by a lady President.

**Madam President,**

We meet in the aftermath of the worst conflict, in the Middle East. This conflict has brought untold misery and resulted in unnecessary loss of life, displacement of people and wanton destruction of property. In the midst of all this, the United Nations Security Council remained pitifully helpless.

The delay by the Security Council to react to the Israel-Lebanon conflict has demonstrated graphically, its extreme inadequacy to respond urgently, with prompt and decisive action, to international armed conflicts. It is precisely such failures that lend credence to the call for the reform of the United Nations, in particular, the Security Council. In this regard, the well-known position of the African Group, has never made more sense, than it does now.

**Madam President,**

The African continent still experiences internal armed conflicts. The African Union (AU), without usurping the powers of the United Nations Security Council, has taken the initiative to resolve some of these conflicts. However, the AU's resources and capacity are limited. It is against this background that the AU, through its Peace and Security Council, resolved to hand over the Darfur Mission to the UN. It is our

hope and earnest plea that the current misunderstanding between the UN and the Government of Sudan be resolved urgently. The United Nations, particularly the Security Council, CANNOT afford to be helpless spectators to yet another genocide.

My delegation calls for concerted efforts by the international community, and the United Nations in collaboration with the African Union, to find a lasting solution to the crises in Somalia and Cote d'Ivoire. With regard to Somalia, the efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to broker an agreement between the Transitional Government and Islamic Courts, must be complemented by the international community, particularly, the United Nations. There is also an urgent need to lift the arms embargo so that the Transitional Government may be able to function.

We congratulate the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who, following decades of undemocratic rule and civil war, recently exercised their inalienable right to elect a government of their choice. It is our hope that with continued assistance from the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) and other partners, the second round of elections, scheduled for 29 October 2006, will proceed peacefully.

We commend the people of Burundi, on the signing of a Peace Agreement between the Government and the FNL. This should enable them to focus on development issues of their country. Furthermore, we congratulate the Government of the Republic of Uganda for the initiative aimed at finding a political solution to the protracted war with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which has taken its toll on the people of Uganda and has contributed to instability in the region.

We express our solidarity with the peoples of Palestine and Western Sahara in their struggle for self-determination and their quest for everlasting peace. Surely things do not have to deteriorate to the level of the Israel-Lebanon conflict before the international community snaps into action in these two volatile situations.

**Madam President,**

Following the 2005 World Summit and in the context of the reform of the United Nations, my delegation notes with satisfaction the creation of the Human Rights Council, the operationalisation of the Peacebuilding Commission and the establishment of the Central

Emergency Response Fund, among others. These are timely events that continue to prove the relevance of this Organization in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

My delegation notes the efficient manner in which the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), responded in some of the countries that faced major human-made or natural disasters, in the last year. This can be attributed to the newly established Central Emergency Response Fund. It is our hope that the Fund will continue to live up to the expectations of Member States.

**Madam President,**

The United Nations Organization was founded on the inter-linked and mutually reinforcing pillars of development, international peace, security and human rights. The issue of development deserves the undivided attention and commitment of Member States, just like the issues of peace, security and human rights. Hence, the call by the 2005 World Summit, for a timely and full realization of development goals and objectives agreed at major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

My delegation is therefore deeply concerned that on the issue of follow-up on the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, Member States were largely divided between the South and the North. We are indeed disheartened that due to a divergence of views on this important issue, the General Assembly was not in a position to suggest concrete actions to implement commitments made at the relevant conferences and summits.

Time is overdue for the General Assembly to suggest concrete actions on how to, among other things:

1. Fulfill the commitments to address the special needs of Africa;
2. Seriously address the uneven progress made by the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

3. Address issues relating to trade, agricultural subsidies and the transfer of the vitally needed resources to developing countries; and
4. Fully implement the global partnerships for development as set out in the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus, Johannesburg Plan of Action and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

My delegation hopes that at its current session, the General Assembly will, among other things, finalize all details regarding the convening of a review conference on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Furthermore, we hope that all stakeholders will reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of the outcomes of the recently held conferences on Migration and Development, and on review of the implementation of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action on Least Developed Countries.

**Madam President,**

There is definitely an inherent global good for all countries in pursuing development cooperation based on genuine partnership and mutually beneficial arrangements. The realities of globalization, liberalization and interdependence have demonstrated the inadequacies of the traditional modes of financing for development, such as Official Development Assistance (ODA), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), trade and other forms of capital flows.

If all Member States are to achieve the MDGs by 2015, certain measures must be undertaken, and they include the following:

1. ODA must be doubled. It must also be timely, predictable and dependable;
2. All partnerships with NEPAD must be linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other agreed development goals and targets; and
3. There must be a complete debt cancellation, not just for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries, but for all the Least Developed Countries as well.

**Madam President,**

The suspension of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations was a disquieting development for some of our countries. While Africa had, on various occasions, expressed concern on the limited progress made in negotiations on issues of major interest to the continent, our faith in the negotiations did not waver. We truly believed there was a common understanding that trade was the most effective route out of poverty. Also, that prosperity and security of all nations, rich or poor, was dependent on, inter alia, free and fair trade.

**Madam President,**

Much has been said about the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Its consequences are now common course. Conferences at the highest levels have been held, sub-regionally, regionally, continentally and globally. These conferences discussed at length the importance of economic and technological development to subdue and defeat HIV and AIDS in affected countries. It is now time for words to be followed by concrete actions targeting in particular the infected and affected groups as well as halting the infection prevalence rates.

**Madam President,**

My delegation regrets the paralysis that has befallen the UN disarmament machinery. Also regretted is the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to produce a consensus substantive outcome document. Equally regrettable is the absence of a section on non-proliferation and disarmament in the 2005 Summit Outcome Document. A *coup de grace* was the failure to agree on an outcome document of the 2006 UN conference to review progress in the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, in All Its Aspects.

Member States should therefore, not run away from the blatant truth that during the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly, the stalemate that in the last four years has characterized negotiations at the UN regarding non-proliferation and disarmament, became vociferously clear to all nations. For, small arms and light weapons remain the weapons of choice that are indiscriminately used in conflicts as well as in other forms of violence, including criminal behaviour. And yet they are still so easily accessible and inexpensive that in some remote villages, they are exchanged for chickens.

**Madam President,**

Terrorism continues to pose the greatest threat to human security. In this regard, I wish to welcome the adoption of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly. However, it is unfortunate that the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism has still not been able to conclude a comprehensive convention on international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The fact remains that Member States have a moral obligation to overcome their longstanding differences on the definition of terrorism. Failure to agree on a definition, however, CANNOT and MUST NOT be used as an excuse for NOT confronting decisively the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

**Madam President,**

Following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1696 on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006, and the subsequent response by the Iranian Authorities, it is our fervent hope that all parties to this issue, will be constructively engaged in seeking a lasting solution to avert possible economic and diplomatic sanctions, and to guarantee Iran's peaceful nuclear programme.

Last but certainly not least, Madam President, this Session marks the end of tenure of office for an illustrious son of the African soil, a distinguished diplomat and Statesman, in the person of His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan. He leaves a legacy for this august body which every one of us must emulate in the best interests of the people we represent. It is therefore befitting to pay tribute to him and to wish him and Mrs. Nane Annan a well-deserved rest, and a future filled with

happiness. Needless to state that he shall be inundated by our calls for his advice and wisdom in the service of mankind. Our standing ovation and Declaration made in honour of His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan during our last AU Summit held in Banjul, has said it all. Typical of his eloquence, he subjected the world's leaders to a rich statement filled with emotions. No wonder, even the world leaders accorded him a befitting standing ovation. His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan has run his lap with excellence! He deserves a medal of honour.

**I thank you.**