



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MR. PHESHEYA MBONGENI DLAMINI
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**27TH SEPTEMBER 2006
NEW YORK**

Please Check Against Delivery

Madam President
Mr. Secretary-General
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

It is a great honour and privilege for me to deliver this important statement on behalf of the delegation of the kingdom of Swaziland.

Allow me to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty The Indlovukazi (The Queen Mother), the government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland to the whole United Nations family.

The Kingdom of Swaziland warmly congratulates you, Madam, on your historic election to the Presidency of the 61st session of the General Assembly.

We are confident that your wide experience and proven legal and diplomatic skills will ensure success in the challenging and daunting issues that face this session. We would also like to commend the excellent work of your predecessor His Excellency, Mr. Jan Eliasson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, in particular for his skillful leadership and the great effort he put into directing the last session of the General Assembly.

The Kingdom of Swaziland would like to pay special tribute to His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan for his outstanding work during his tenure as our Secretary-General. Through his untiring and dedicated efforts he demonstrated the vision and qualities that saw him successfully lead our organization into the twenty-first century despite of the daunting challenges that the organization faced. We also commend him for his initiatives in contributing to the economic and social development of the African continent through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland is delighted to extend a warm welcome to our organization's new member, the Republic of Montenegro. Her admission is further confirmation of respect for the principle of universality and representation, as enshrined in the founding charter of the United Nations. However, as we welcome our new member, we are still conscious of the fact that the principle of universality has not been applied to its fullest.

Madam President,

I am referring to the exclusion of Taiwan. With this latest admission, almost all the countries of the world have become members of this ever-global organization, all except one – Taiwan. The exclusion of this nation poses a legal and a moral challenge to the international community. Time has come for the United Nations to stop enforcing a policy of exclusion against the 23.6 million people of Taiwan.

The Kingdom of Swaziland believes that accepting Taiwan as a member of the United Nations would not only restore the rights of the people but would also contribute to ensuring that peace and stability is maintained in the Taiwan Strait. We believe that every

country in that region should be allowed to participate in working towards peace, stability and positive development.

Therefore, we propose that Resolution 2758 of 1971 be reviewed carefully with a view to restoring the legal and moral rights of the people of Taiwan to be part of the United Nations family.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland joins the world in condemning terrorism and threats to international peace and security. We condemn all acts of terrorism that have taken place over the past year and we offer our sympathies and prayers to all those who were affected by such acts, especially the families and friends of those who lost their lives. The world has, in recent times, seen the upsurge of terrorism on an unprecedented level.

We welcome the recent agreement on the counter-terrorism strategy. This demonstrates the commitment of the international community to overcome the scourge of terrorism.

It must be born in mind that all states, large or small, in every region are vulnerable and could be affected by terrorism. Therefore, all member states have to ensure that the strategy is implemented and further updated in order to conquer the evolving challenges.

We fully support the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty and call for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by those states that possess them. We support the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament concerning the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction as part of our commitment to a peaceful world. We also continue to be part of the campaign against the trafficking, sale and distribution of small arms and light weapons. Such weapons encourage terrorism on an international as well as on an individual level.

The Kingdom of Swaziland welcomes the establishment of the Peace-Building Commission and we look forward to the realization of the goals envisaged in the formation of such a body.

We are also proud to congratulate a sister state, the Republic of Angola, on her election to be the first to preside over this important and unique Commission.

Madam President,

The recent tragic events that took place in Lebanon and northern Israel are a cause for great concern and a challenge to the Peace-Building Commission. The Kingdom of Swaziland stands firmly behind the collective effort of the international community to ensure the implementation of the Security Council resolution that ended the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. We are of the view that a comprehensive peace process must be revived as a matter of urgency.

Whilst we are especially encouraged by the developments towards peace on the African continent, we remain concerned about the worsening security situation in Darfur, western

Sudan, where thousands of people have been killed and more than 2 million displaced since the conflict erupted in 2003.

We urge the parties concerned to demonstrate a spirit of necessary compromise and to cooperate with efforts made to facilitate the search for peaceful and lasting solutions.

The Kingdom of Swaziland supports unequivocally every effort that is being made to sustain peace in this area and we join our fellow member states in calling for support from the United Nations and for commitments in word to be followed up by action.

We welcome the results of the historic first round elections that took place in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the first of its kind in 40 years. This is the first crucial step towards the recovery of the country, and we support every effort by the United Nations and the international community to consolidate this achievement, bearing in mind that it would not only make a difference to the Democratic Republic of Congo but to the African continent as a whole.

The recently established Human Rights Council has just concluded a successful inaugural session. The Kingdom of Swaziland welcomes the creation of this historic new body. This is indeed a step in the right direction towards strengthening our organization's human rights tools. We believe that the work of the Council will be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, international dialogue and cooperation. In this regard we align ourselves with the rest of Africa in supporting a less-politicized body that will respond promptly to cases of human rights abuses in any part of the world.

The Kingdom of Swaziland believes that the ongoing reforms of the United Nations are essential, especially for the organization to retain its global credibility. It is therefore our hope that the number of key reform proposals that were deferred to this session will be concluded satisfactorily.

Meanwhile we welcome the progress that has been made so far, including the establishment of a United Nations Ethics Office, Peace-Building Commission and the Human Rights Council.

Madam President,

Neither renewal nor reform would be complete without the reform of the Security Council.

In the quest for an overall agreement on this issue, the Kingdom of Swaziland supports the position of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group concerning the composition and working methods of the Security Council. We hope that the much expected results would be yielded upon conclusion of this matter.

We, as a member state of this august body recognize the vital role that major United Nations conferences and summits have played towards identifying commonly agreed objectives that should contribute towards the success of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), however, we do realize the fact that nothing can be achieved without the adequate funding, especially for developing nations.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland has completed the constitutional development process and given birth to a new political dispensation. We are now working towards putting in place the relevant laws and regulations that have to comply with our new constitution.

This is of course a costly but worthwhile exercise and we are grateful to the United Nations for the assistance and support that has been made available to us.

We have also finalized our decentralization policy and its implementation strategy as part of our efforts to empower the Swazi people for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Our classification as a lower middle-income country has made difficult the possibility of accessing various funds and resources that would otherwise be available to us. Consequently, we still face the challenges of poverty and unemployment. Additionally, we are losing our skilled human resources pool to developed countries. In this regard, we look forward to working closely with the United Nations agencies in order to alleviate the situation.

On a more positive note, the Kingdom of Swaziland is now implementing the recommendations of our job creation summit that took place last year.

His Majesty King Mswati III always stands behind his people and fully supports the idea of the participation of the people in building the economy. For instance he encourages them to start their own businesses as a means of reducing the unemployment level.

However, we still face challenges such as market fluctuations in certain products such as sugar and textiles.

We also encourage our people to be in partnerships with foreign direct investors in joint ventures to develop our nation.

Madam President,

In conclusion, allow me to allude to the fact that there is indeed much vital work to be completed during this 61st session of the general assembly. The Kingdom of Swaziland is confident in the initiatives already taken towards the renewal of our organization and looks forward to a new dynamic and vibrant working period.

We are indebted to the United Nations for all we have received and achieved over the years towards the development of our nation.

I am therefore charged by His Majesty The King, Her Majesty The Indlovukazi (the Queen Mother), the government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland with proclaiming the renewal of our commitment to the founding charter of the United Nations. We ask for

God's blessings upon those tasked with leading the organization to give them the wisdom and direction they require to carry out these tasks on behalf of all the peoples of the world.

Thank you, Madam President.