



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

Speech by

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&

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In the Name of Allah The Most Compassionate The Most Merciful

Mr. President,

I would like at the outset to congratulate you on your election as President of the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that, thanks to your experience and wisdom, you will lead the work of this forum so as to achieve the best results. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the manner in which Shaikha Haya Bint Rashid Al Khalifa ran the deliberations of the General Assembly in its previous session and the efforts she made to press forward with the reform of the United Nations and, with regard to several controversial issues, to arrive at solutions which all find acceptable.

I would also like to express our gratitude for the efforts exerted by His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, since his appointment as Secretary General of the United Nations, to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. President,

Reforming the United Nations has been the central issue in our deliberations in the General Assembly and in a number of other forums over the past two years. We have been able to move towards the achievement of our goals vis-à-vis some aspects of the reform process. However there is still a long way to go, especially in the absence of real progress towards reforming the Security Council and enhancing the role of the General Assembly.

This issue has been the subject of intensive consultations in which many ideas have been put forward; some of which are realistic, based on the principles of equal sovereignty for all nations and equitable geographical representation. Other ideas, however, involve confirming control by the powerful of the organs of the United Nations and the concept that those with privileges in the Security Council hold fast to those privileges, while rejecting any active role for other actors in this respect. The latter attitude cannot lead to any true reform which will contribute to the realization of the purposes embodied in the UN charter.

A realistic assessment of progress made in the U.N. reform process, especially in the light of the impasse negotiations have reached regarding Security Council reform, leads us to the conviction that there is

an urgent need for a new world summit conference to push forward the reform process, bringing to an end the work which we began two years ago. In order to achieve this, Libya calls, from this podium, for a high level summit meeting to be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva within the framework of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in 2008, dedicated to the reform process and the expansion of the Security Council. Holding this important meeting in Geneva, a city which lies at the center of the world, will provide the opportunity for all world leaders to attend, to present constructive proposals and to participate in the decision-making process regarding this thorny issue: an issue with which the entire international community is concerned.

True reform of the United Nations means putting decision-making power in the hands of all of its members: that is to say, in the hands of the General Assembly, where all countries have equal votes. The Security Council will become a tool to implement General Assembly resolutions and we will overcome the obstacles caused by the veto, which puts international decision-making power in the hands of the permanent members of the Security Council and entrenches the resort to a selective approach and double standards in dealing with international problems.

In our efforts to reform the Security Council, we must consider a new formula for permanent membership in which membership would be awarded to geographical blocs and not to specific countries. In this regard, we call for the African Union to be granted permanent membership of the Security Council, with all the privileges enjoyed by the other permanent members, since Africa is the only continent which has no representative among the permanent members.

While we encourage the current negotiations regarding reform of the Security Council, we stress the fact that Libya adheres to the Common African Position, issued at the fifth African Union Summit, held in Sirte on 4 and 5 July 2005. This position was confirmed in subsequent African Union summit conferences. It calls for the African continent to be granted five non-permanent seats and two permanent seats with all the privileges that the other permanent members enjoy, including the right of veto.

Mr. President,

Libya seeks the support of all member states for a seat on the Security Council so that it may continue to enhance its efforts to achieve the objectives of the United Nations, building on its experience of non-

permanent membership in 1976 and 1977. Libya has therefore submitted its candidature for non-permanent membership for the period 2008-2009. This candidature enjoys the support of the African Union in its resolution no. EX.CL/DEC. 308 (IX) issued in Banjul, Ghana on 29 June 2007, of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in its resolution no. ORG 33/2 issued in Baku, Azerbaijan on 21 June 2006 and of the Arab League in its resolution no 6696 issued in the 126th session of the Ministerial Council of the League in Cairo, Egypt on 6 September 2006.

Libya's firm commitment to the goals and the principles of the United Nations Charter, its notable contribution to international peace-keeping and security and its support for development, especially in Africa, demonstrate that Libya is highly qualified for membership of the Security Council. Through its membership of the Council, Libya will strive to achieve the following goals:

- Emphasizing the central role played by the United Nations in achieving international peace and security.
- Strengthening respect for international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter.
- Enhancing pluralism in international relations through the United Nations.
- Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in solving international problems.
- Contributing to efforts to reform the organs of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.
- Working to increase cooperation and coordination between the Security Council and the other organs of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly.
- Encouraging swift and effective international cooperation and coordination in disaster management and in the protection of human rights.
- Contributing to the creation of permanent solutions to international problems based on justice, transparency and respect for the principles of international law.
- Encouraging further cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the areas of conflict resolution, consolidation of peace and supporting development in Africa.

Libya strongly believes in the objectives of the United Nations and consistently meets its obligations to the Organization. Among member states, Libya was the second-largest African contributor to the UN budget and to the budget of peacekeeping operations in the biennium 2004-2006.

Furthermore, Libya provides a large share of voluntary contributions to serve the goals of the United Nations.

Moreover, Libya is one of the countries which have most often resorted to the mechanisms of the United Nations in order to resolve international disagreements, resorting to the International Court of Justice in a number of cases with Chad, Tunisia and Malta.

Libya has been a key mediator in the resolution of a number of conflicts and disputes, especially in Africa and has dispatched peacekeeping forces to the Central African Republic, has monitored the border between Chad and Sudan and has taken part in the United Nations mission to Darfur. Libya has also begun to nominate personnel from the Libyan police to serve in UN missions. It is expected that the first of these personnel will join UN missions in Côte d'Ivoire during the course of this year.

Libyan has established partnerships with a large number of countries in the field of development, particularly in Africa and, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Libya implements numerous projects which provide food in a number of African countries.

In cooperation with Cuba and Nigeria, Libya established the South-South Programme for Healthcare in Africa and, in 2006, launched the Gaddafi Programme for African Women, Children and Young People which provides Healthcare and Educational Services in Africa.

Libya has provided humanitarian aid to numerous countries to alleviate the effects of disasters. Recipient countries have included Niger, Chad, Sudan, Somalia, Palestine, Indonesia, Pakistan and Mauritania. Libya has also provided substantial aid to several African countries to combat Desert Locusts.

In the field of Disarmament, Libya believes that comprehensive and complete disarmament, beginning with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, is an essential prerequisite for the restoration of international peace and security. For this reason, Libya initiated its voluntary abandonment of all programmes related to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Libya hopes that all nations which possess such weapons or related programmes will follow its exemplary behavior.

Mr. President,

International cooperation, under the auspices of the United Nations, has achieved excellent results in the fight against terrorism. However, by concentrating on the fight against this phenomenon while ignoring its causes, it will not be possible to bring terrorism to an end. Libya was among the first states which called for the coordination of international efforts to fight terrorism. In 1992, Libya called for a special session of the General Assembly to be held in order to study this phenomenon and take the necessary measures to combat it and eradicate its root causes (A/46/840). We believe that the time has come to heed this call and to establish a precise definition of terrorism which will protect human rights and halt the practice of confusing terrorism with the legitimate right of peoples to fight against foreign occupation in order to exercise self-determination and attain independence.

Ending terrorism will require practical measures to eliminate its root causes, including effective action to promote human rights for all peoples, putting a stop to acts of aggression and the occupation of the lands of others, fighting poverty and encouraging democracy.

Foreign occupation is the worst form of terrorism, since occupation forces subject entire peoples to measures which violate the most basic principles of human rights and commit crimes on a daily basis against those peoples in order to maintain their occupation. In our campaign to fight terrorism, it is imperative that we coordinate our efforts to finally put an end to foreign occupation, enable peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and prevent interference in their internal affairs.

Mr. President,

We urgently need to implement the undertakings which we adopted in the Millennium Declaration, the Doha Declaration and the outcomes of the Monterey and Johannesburg conferences so that we make ideal use of the resources of our planet, put a stop to conflicts, end poverty, illiteracy and disease, provide all people with safe drinking water, safeguard the environment and achieve sustainable development.

It falls upon the shoulders of the United Nations, and especially upon the shoulders of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to establish international partnerships for development which can achieve the Millennium goals. Such partnerships should strive to facilitate dialogue between the North and the South on the basis of respect for sovereignty, equality, benefit-sharing and should ensure that we reach the

agreed upon goal of devoting 0.7% of developed countries' Gross Domestic Product to official development assistance to developing countries. Those partnerships must likewise ensure appropriate application of all multilateral free trade principles and must strengthen measures regarding preferential treatment for developing countries within the framework of the WTO, including facilitating accession for developing countries to this organization.

Countries with a colonial past assume the largest share of the responsibility to provide aid to developing countries, and compensate them for the damage they suffered during the colonial era. Similarly, countries which were engaged in wars on the territories of other countries have a responsibility to remove mines and explosive remnants of war which they left in those countries, and must provide the necessary maps, equipment and technical know-how in order to restore and rehabilitate damaged land in developing countries.

Here, I must call upon all member states to aid the African Union in its efforts to ensure that all African countries achieve the Millennium goals, and in its efforts to create a united continent which delivers prosperity to its peoples, and which can participate effectively in the march of Humanity towards progress, the triumph of liberty, human rights, and the erasure of the effects of colonialism. Moreover, we hope for the provision of support for the African Union's plans and programmes within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative (NEPAD).

Mr. President,

The Palestinian people have lived in great misery for more than half a century since their land was seized and more than half the people dispersed to various parts of the world. Those who remained have been subjected to a bloody and vicious Israeli occupation and to systematic violation of international humanitarian law: houses are demolished, land confiscated and Palestinian agricultural land is bulldozed. Under siege and denied food and medicine, inhabitants are expelled and unarmed civilians killed while the building of an apartheid wall continues.

The oppression to which the Palestinian people are subjected and the failure of the United Nations to protect them and to aid them in attaining their rights (the right of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on all Palestinian land) are factors which prevent the restoration of peace and security in the region.

The time has come to address the issue of Palestine more seriously and to refrain from attempts to impose faits accomplis on the Palestinian people, depriving them of their legitimate rights. As Libya has declared previously, Libya reiterates today: the only solution which can lead to peace, security and stability in the region is one which guarantees the return of all Palestinian refugees to their lands and the establishment of a democratic state in historic Palestine in which Arabs and Jews live with equal rights and obligations, in a similar manner to what has occurred in South Africa where Whites and Blacks now live together after decades of conflict, hatred and bloodshed.

Mr. President,

The continuing Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms is yet another factor which destabilizes peace in the region and is sufficient justification for the outbreak of war at any moment. The international community must take the necessary measures to oblige the occupation forces to withdraw from all occupied Arab land, return it to its owners and compensate Syria and Lebanon for the damage inflicted upon them by the occupation.

The tragedy of the occupation under which the people of Iraq live-- an occupation which has resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands, injured hundreds of thousands and forced the migration and internal displacement of millions -- requires an urgent initiative from the United Nations to solve the crisis which will ensure the withdrawal of the occupation forces, put an end to the bloodshed, restore Iraq's stability and sovereignty, maintain Iraq's territorial integrity and empower Iraqis to control their resources and freely decide their destiny, while enabling all citizens to participate in the administration of their country, without marginalizing any group, so that peace, security and prosperity may prevail.

Thank you, Mr. President.