

MONTENEGRO



STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Željko Šturanović
Prime Minister of the Republic of Montenegro

**at the General Debate of the 62nd Session of
the General Assembly of the United Nations**

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- Check Against Delivery -

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, Mr. President, to join the congratulations and welcome your election as President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly. We are convinced that your leadership will contribute to promoting both your country and our entire region, as well as to a successful outcome of the current session.

May I also extend wholehearted congratulations to the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He can count on full support of Montenegro, as the youngest member of the UN.

I should also like to thank in particular Shaikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa for her successful presidency of the 61st session of the General Assembly.

Today is the right time for each country, and in particular for smaller and developing countries, to ask and answer the question on the role of multilateralism as the superior discourse in the changing contemporary world. Multilateralism provides a framework for choosing those democratic, development and cultural options that can most effectively respond to the major challenges that lie ahead, be it preservation of peace and security, climate change, development processes, fight against terrorism or protection of human rights.

Montenegro stands ready to actively participate in making these principles reality, recognizing the importance of multilateral organisations, in particular the UN. As a society implementing major structural economic and social reforms, we understand and join the reform processes taking place under the auspices of the UN. Also, as a member state we are conscious of our obligations in respecting the international legal order and contributing to building peace and democracy in the international community.

Good-neighbourly relations and regional co-operation, as an inseparable part of the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, are the corner stone of Montenegro's foreign policy. We strongly believe that Montenegro and the Western Balkans have clearly a European future and in this context we support the efforts of all our neighbours in adopting and implementing European standards and values.

In mid-October we will be signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement, thus establishing the first contractual relationship between Montenegro and the EU. In this way we will be rounding off intensive activities on our European road, which will enable us to move to a new enhanced phase of our relations. It is in this context that we view our recent accession of the Partnership for Peace. Our commitment to

European and Euro-Atlantic integration has been reaffirmed in all the strategic documents we have adopted after the restoration of independence.

Many development processes are now taking place in Montenegro: expansion of the open market economy, change of ownership structures, reform of the public sector, the judiciary and the security structures. The reform of the institutions and development programmes, as the focus of our political activity in this phase has been inspired by the principles of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, which guarantees stability and prosperity. It is with a full responsibility that we are building an ambience that guarantees rule of law, equality and respect of human, minority and religious rights. Only thus can we contribute to regional stability.

Small that we are, we stand ready to make our full contribution to creating conditions that will enable the region to continue along the road of mutual trust, increasing stabilization and unhindered cooperation.

By becoming independent, Montenegro has taken charge of her integration in the system of international relations on equal footing, as well as her responsibility for preserving peace, security and stability in the region, while building herself as an open, democratic and civic society.

We believe that, in this context, the direct negotiations that have today started on a future Kosovo status will bear fruit. Montenegro strongly supports this negotiating process, in which the international community has been investing considerable efforts, convinced that it should bring about a lasting and sustainable solution that will over a long term contribute to strengthening and preserving regional stability.

Montenegro is particularly sensitive to the underlying theme of the 62nd session of the General Assembly - the debate on response to climate change, or, as the Secretary General said: "climate change and what we do about it, will define us, our era and ultimately the global legacy we leave for future generations". The idea of the world as a global village, an indivisible whole, is, perhaps, the most evident in this case. Without a common approach there can be no right response. And no one has the right to remain indifferent before this challenge, either individually or globally.

Manifold negative effects of climate change are possible, affecting, among others, my country, including rising level of the Adriatic Sea, rising temperatures, impact on forest and other eco-systems and bio-diversity. Montenegro is making efforts aimed at keeping pace with world trends and contributing to endeavours that are to ensure a better life and a more humane environment for us and our posterity. We have many activities and projects under way in this field, including international obligations. In this regard we have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and started preparing our first report on its implementation. We have also recently adopted the National Sustainable

Development Strategy, and are now setting up a network of public institutions to develop activities related to the climate change challenges.

Taking account of the national natural resources and the responsibility for their preservation, the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro has adopted *the Declaration on Montenegro as an Ecological State*. As an ecological state Montenegro has an additional obligation to support the efforts of the United Nations towards promoting global sustainable development. Through her vigorous activities she will continue to build herself as a state that ensures a sustainable development for her citizens.

In view of this, we welcome the efforts of the UN, and in particular of the Secretary-General. We are encouraged by the messages resulting from this U.N. GA Session and the High-Level Event on Climate Change. We expect that these will significantly contribute to the success of the Bali process in December and that the conference will bring about more constructive proposals and more stable solutions in particular in regard of the post-2012 goals.

As was the case before, over the past months we have witnessed the United Nations continuing to play an important part in hotbeds across the world. The contribution given by the UN, to mention just Darfur, is demonstrating time and again the ability of the world organisation to adapt and show the kind of role it deserves in the contemporary world.

We therefore believe that the United Nations has the ability to conduct a comprehensive reform of its system in order to respond to the increasingly complex challenges. In view of its importance for peace and security in the world, the modalities of reform should result in a stronger, more organized, coherent and efficient United Nations.

We are of the opinion that an efficient co-ordination of the main U.N. bodies is vital. We have witnessed some headway since the recent Summit. One essential reform aspect is the reform of the General Assembly, which remains the primary decision-making organ of the UN. This one, along with other aspects of the reform, must be intensified and result-oriented.

This certainly applies to the ongoing debate on the reform of the ECOSOC and, in particular, the Security Council. An equitable representation of the Eastern European Group, to which we belong, should be ensured in this important organ.

For a small country like Montenegro, an efficient co-operation with the United Nations is crucial. We are therefore most interested in being the agent and promoter of this co-operation. Be it through the One UN programme, or through a similar modality. Our commitment to the co-operation with the UN is also demonstrated by the project of construction of the first UN Eco-Building, as the focal point of all the UN activities in Montenegro.

As a developing country, Montenegro looks forward to the high-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and a successful conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations, which will, hopefully, give a fresh momentum to bringing together economic, financial and social topics towards achieving a comprehensive progress and development. The world of today is faced with a multitude of challenges in this field and Montenegro stands ready to contribute to the global partnership for development.

In this context Montenegro will continue with activities conducive to a full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, convinced that she will in this way contribute to an improved quality of life and general stability.

With a view to satisfying legitimate security interests of nations, we must be unified and decisive in tackling terrorism, which continues to threaten the world. The UN Strategy and Action Plan to counter terrorism are of great importance and call for an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Montenegro has demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate full and unequivocal commitment to and compliance with international obligations by her co-operation with the ICTY. We shall continue with our concrete co-operation with the ICTY, contributing not only to the rule of law, but to the completion strategy, too.

We shall continue to build our policy and development on the basis of the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which represent the foundations of modern democracies. We therefore see the United Nations as the most important forum for achieving progress, a more equitable future and a community of equal nations.

Our country is proud of her multiethnic and multi-confessional harmony. This is one of her cherished values, distinguishing Montenegro in the regional and broader international context. With her tradition and her culture she belongs to the millennial historical courses of the Balkans, the Mediterranean and Europe, the crossroads of civilisations, religions and intertwined influences. We want to preserve and enhance this legacy working together not only with our neighbours, but also with all other countries, with which we share this privilege of geography, culture and values.

That is why the World Organisation is the only true global forum, reflecting all the diversities and qualities of its members, united by the principles and values that have remained, even after 62 years, a beacon in the increasingly changing and dynamic world. Following this same course and at the same time being ready to change is an imperative for us all.

Thank you.