

**УКРАЇНА**



**UKRAINE**

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**ADDRESS**

**by H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Khandogiy,**

**First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,**

**at the general debate of the sixty-second session  
of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

**( 3 October 2007)**

**New York**

**Mr. President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate you, Your Excellency, on your election to the high post of the President of the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. On behalf of my delegation let me wish you every success in your important mission and assure you of our full support.

I would like to extend warm words of appreciation to your predecessor, H.E. Mrs. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, of the Kingdom of Bahrain, whose extensive diplomatic experience and skillful guidance throughout the 61st General Assembly have greatly contributed to its success.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to express our support to the ambitious plans and consistent efforts of the UN Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon to re-energize the Organization, strengthen its capacity and update the UN system in the new century.

One of the most serious threats facing humankind today remains **international terrorism**.

Last year, the General Assembly by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy made a concrete contribution to combat terrorism in a coordinated manner, at the national, regional and international levels. We believe that adoption of the definition of terrorism during the current session would become a starting point in assessing counterterrorism measures taken by each state.

My country joined the antiterrorist coalition since its inception and has made a significant contribution to its activities. Only during the last five years all thirteen anti-terrorist international treaties have been ratified by Ukrainian Parliament.

On the Governmental level, we support international antiterrorist efforts, in particular, through the participation in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. This fall we plan to organize in Ukraine the Third International Forum on Counteraction Measures to the Acts of Nuclear Terrorism with the participation of civil society, scholars, NGOs.

**Disarmament and nonproliferation** are among other most important challenges on our agenda. As a country that voluntarily renounced its military nuclear arsenals, Ukraine is really disappointed that a world without weapons of mass destruction remains a distant dream.

The international community continues to be intimidated by the threat of WMD proliferation. The strengthening of international legal norms and political instruments to prevent WMD proliferation remains a top priority. In this regard I would like to stress the importance of universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, as well as of Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Commemorating in 2007 the tenth anniversary of Chemical Weapons Convention, Ukraine is ready to contribute to the OPCW efforts on ensuring universal adherence to the CWC, particularly, by the Middle East countries.

With this in mind Ukraine proposes to host next year together with the OPCW an International Conference with the participation of, *inter alia*, countries from the Middle East and Northern Africa. The anticipated outcome of such a conference might be a joint statement on the intention of the countries concerned to adhere to the CWC.

We are convinced that the only way forward is to make a simultaneous progress both in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament.

We cannot but underscore our concerns over the recent tendencies which have already caused the erosion of the multilateral regimes in the arms control and disarmament sphere, thus making negative impact on mutual trust and confidence among the states. The very recent events around the

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (the CFE Treaty) questioned seriously the future of this important arms control instrument widely recognized as a cornerstone of European security.

Speaking about the global peace and security I cannot but draw attention to the problem of the **protracted conflicts** in the GUAM area. These conflicts create instability and insecurity, as well as constitute a threat to the peace in the region. There is no doubt that these conflicts have been endangering the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries of the region, while also hampering their economic and social development.

We are concerned that numerous international efforts to settle those conflicts have yielded no results. It is crucially important that the world community continue to take practical steps to that end. In our opinion, the United Nations, regional organizations and other relevant mechanisms should harmoniously complement one another using their comparative advantages in peacemaking activities.

In this context, I would like to stress Ukraine's unequivocal support for a long-lasting settlement in **Kosovo**. That objective cannot be achieved by undertaking unilateral steps, as well as attempts to solve the issue of Kosovo bypassing the United Nations. A hasty settlement can only destabilize the situation in the region and have negative implications for the entire system of international relations, since similar scenarios could be pursued by separatist entities in some other regions.

Ukraine has always supported the **UN peacekeeping** efforts both politically and practically. We are glad to note that the noticeable increase in peacekeeping activities lately takes place in accordance with the reform strategy "*Peace Operations 2010*". It is especially important in light of the ongoing and expected deployments in the future. In this context Ukraine supports the Secretary-General in his efforts to strengthen the UN capacity to manage and sustain peace operations.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that next year we shall mark the 60th anniversary of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this regard our delegation proposes to adopt at the 63rd session of the General Assembly a special Declaration to commemorate this event.

The UN credibility will always be measured by its ability to adequately respond to various threats in any region of the world. No organization is better equipped to deal with those issues. The United Nations should lead multilateral efforts to address global challenges with the view to reaching solutions in the interest of all. But to address them effectively, we need to take further steps in **reforming and improving existing mechanisms of the United Nations** in order to make this Organization more relevant in the twenty-first century.

Unfortunately, the **Security Council reform**, which is the key element within the process of renewing the United Nations, is still on the agenda. We are of the view that the reform process will only benefit from new creative approaches and eventually bring about tangible results. In this regard I would like to once again stress Ukraine's position that one of the necessary elements of the Security Council's reform should be allocation of an additional non-permanent seat to the Group of Eastern European States, whose membership has more than doubled since 1991.

Adherence to economic, social and environmental policies, good governance in today's world are the key factors to achieving **sustainable development**. We share the view, expressed in a number of statements during this session, that sustainable development is a global challenge. Ukraine believes that sustainable development is a basic element for achieving internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals.

At the same time, the forces of nature complemented by reckless and irresponsible human behavior, can easily break up any development plans, shape continents and eventually wipe out the whole countries from the world's map. Science has proven on many occasions that **climate change, global warming and pollution** may cause sudden and dramatic consequences if not addressed timely,

properly and effectively. Ukraine is firmly committed to the international agreements in the area of climate change, including the UN Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol.

This year we marked the 21st anniversary of the **Chornobyl** catastrophe, the worst technological disaster ever faced by humankind. Chornobyl severely affected my country and the entire region. We call upon the United Nations agencies and individual donors to continue to provide assistance to the affected States, and to work together on implementation of the relevant programmes in the spirit of cooperation.

Ukraine as a coordinator of the Chornobyl Agenda in 2007 proposes together with the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation to adopt at the 62nd UN GA session the **new resolution** on strengthening international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. In this regard, we would welcome the broad support for the abovementioned initiative during this UNGA session.

Ukraine is approaching the 75th Anniversary of one of the most tragic pages in its history – the **Holodomor**, or Great Famine. The artificial famine of 1932-33, perpetrated by the Soviet totalitarian regime for the purpose of annihilation of the rural population as the backbone of the Ukrainian nation, took lives of millions of innocent people. For more than seven decades this horrific crime, which ranks among the worst catastrophes ever experienced by humankind, is still awaiting adequate international condemnation.

We sincerely hope that the United Nations as the collective moral authority and effective instrument in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, will raise its voice and denounce the horrendous disaster that was purposefully inflicted upon Ukrainian population in the early 1930's. By doing so, due tribute will be paid to honor the memory of millions of our compatriots who were outrageously deprived of their lives. It is important to remember the past in order to learn from it and to avoid repeating crimes against humanity in the future.

A decision of the General Assembly to establish an International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Genocides could be a worthwhile and timely contribution to the attainment of that goal. Likewise, it could facilitate the effective implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as the world is going to mark their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in 2008. We are confident that this event deserves adoption of a special resolution.

In the context of human rights, Ukraine attaches great importance to harmonious coexistence of civilizations, dialogue and cooperation between various cultures and peoples. In this regard we support the **Alliance of Civilizations** established under the initiative of Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey, and we intend to join the Group of Friends of the Alliance in the near future.

The problems before us are daunting. We believe that the United Nations is the only organization with the worldwide membership, global reach, and universal legitimacy needed to address today's global threats and challenges which no country can resolve on its own.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm Ukraine's readiness to continue to make active contribution to further strengthening of our Organization.

Thank you.