

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to address this august assembly on behalf of my delegation from the Kingdom of eSwatini.

This assembly gives us the opportunity as Heads of State and Government to share ideas and experiences. This forum enables us to shape the future of our countries and pave a way for a better world where we can all live with each other in harmony.

Let me extend our appreciation to Secretary-General, Mr. Ban, Ki-Moon and the entire UN staff for their efforts in carrying out the vision and programmes of the United Nations.

Mr. President, the world continues to face many challenges. These include the catastrophic effects of climate change, complicated diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria as well as the HIV and AIDS epidemic and food shortages.

This situation is further compounded by high fuel and food prices and the instability in international finance, thereby retarding our efforts to fight poverty and attain sustainable development.

It is encouraging to note that the United Nations, in particular the FAO and WFP continue to assist developing countries in finding lasting solutions to the food crisis.

In light of this, my country has put in place various strategies to ensure food security.

The nation continues to hold consultations on these issues for instance we had a national agricultural meeting last year and Sibaya – people's parliament this year which were looking at ways of increasing our food production and other issues of national interest. The nation came out with different suggestions and we are in the process of implementing them.

Mr. President, as developing countries, we were looking forward to positive results from the Doha round of negotiations particularly on agriculture. Developing countries were hoping for secure and increased market access for their agricultural products.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case. We hope these talks will be concluded soon for the benefit of the developing countries.

Mr. President, Swaziland fully supports the global dialogue to ensure that the world is rescued from the dangers of global warming and other damages to the environment.

It is true that, global warming is a major contributor to the many calamities such as earthquakes, flooding and persistent droughts that threaten the very existence of the human race.

Swaziland, like many other countries of the world continues to be a victim of the devastating effects of climate change. We continue to suffer from a persistent drought.

We continue to be hit by strong winds that cause wildfires. These fires often destroy vast acres of our man-made forests, resulting in economic disruption, waste of many years of investment and loss of life and property.

We fully agree with the United Nations that failure to respond timeously and decisively to this threat will undermine national and international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals which aim to improve the living standards and welfare of all our peoples.

Mr. President, the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs came at the most opportune time. We are pleased with the adoption of the Declaration and we are looking forward to its effective implementation.

There is indeed urgency in addressing Africa's special needs, in particular economic development, poverty reduction and issues of peace and security.

It should be noted that cooperation and support of the international finance institutions is pivotal for instance by ensuring improved accessibility to finance for Africa. This should also include availing grants and loans under preferential rates to African countries to fund infrastructure development, technology transfer, tourism and other projects that are meant to create wealth and economic growth.

Mr. President, as we pass the mid - point to the 2015 deadline for MDGs we still face challenges. This is more so because many of our people are still living in poverty and we continue to face high unemployment rate.

Notwithstanding this, the Kingdom of Swaziland's commitment to the achievement of MDGs is unwavering. The MDGs are anchored on our national development strategy and the poverty reduction strategy and action plan which aspire amongst other things to reduce poverty by more than half in 2015. All government programmes are geared towards this vision and are implemented with the guidance of all stakeholders and the nation at large.

Like many other countries, the Kingdom of Swaziland is on track in some of the MDGs. We are doing everything possible to achieve universal education. We are providing resources for every child to go to school. Efforts are made to achieve; gender equality and empowerment of women, ensuring of environmental sustainability, reduction of child mortality, combating of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria amongst other targets.

Mr. President, peace, stability and security which form the primary goals of the United Nations remain key pillars to meaningful development.

When these conditions prevail our peoples can concentrate their energies and resources on the pursuit of productivity and wealth creation.

As Southern African Development Community (SADC) we are committed to upholding the above pillars for a better life for all. We have put in place structures, such as the SADC organ on politics, defence and security co-operation, to ensure preservation and promotion of these.

It is for this reason that we applaud the recent signing of the power sharing agreement and the establishment of a government of national unity in Zimbabwe.

We look forward with optimism to the rebuilding process and removal of all bottlenecks. In this regard, we urge the international community and the developed world to fully support the people of Zimbabwe. In the same spirit we wish to see peacefully negotiated settlements in all conflicts that prevail in Africa and in different parts of the world.

Mr. President, the Kingdom of eSwatini joins the rest of the world in condemning all forms and acts of terrorism. We support efforts for the full implementation of the global counter-terrorism strategy in order to send out a clear message to all perpetrators of terrorism. In line with the United Nations convention on terrorism, our parliament has recently promulgated the anti-terrorism act.

Mr. President, if the role of the UN is to be more effective, its structure must be reformed to adapt to an ever-changing world since the adoption of the charter. These reforms should of course take place in a fair, just and balanced manner.

It has been observed in the past that one of the most important reforms that require urgent attention is that of the Security Council. The widely held view is that the Security Council as it is constituted at present falls short of proper demographic representation of its members.

The Kingdom of eSwatini looks forward to a speedy conclusion to the discussions on the reform of the UN.

Mr. President, we welcome the recent hand shake between the senior leadership of the Republic of China on Taiwan and that of mainland China. This hand shake gives us hope that the two are now talking to each other. Hopefully this might lead to an amicable resolution of the cross straits relations, such that perhaps one day, we might see them sitting next to each other here at the United Nations.

It should be noted that the people of Taiwan have expertise and experience which they are ready to share with the United Nations family. It is for this reason that Swaziland requests the UN to allow Taiwan to participate in the UN specialized agencies.

Mr. President, the Kingdom of Swaziland has just held a successful parliamentary election under our new constitution. The voter turnout was most impressive as the people exercised their right to vote for a government of their choice.

As the nation continues to appreciate the power of parliamentary representation in a complex globalised world, we note that the electorate understands the importance of choosing candidates of high calibre with the capacity to handle the issues at hand.

That gives us confidence that the new parliament will assist with strategies that will further improve our socio-economic climate for the betterment of the living standards of our people.

Mr. President, the Kingdom of eSwatini reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and preservation of the central role of the UN in multilateral affairs.

We treasure peace and development and amicable regional and international relations and together with all nations will work towards a peaceful and prosperous future for all humankind.

I thank you. May God almighty bless us all!!