

15 September 2009

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki,
President of the 64th Session of the General Assembly,
At the opening of the Sixty-Fourth session of the General Assembly**

[Spoke in Arabic]:

Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to begin by expressing my gratitude and appreciation for having been chosen as President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. My election is a great honour for my country and its leadership. It confers on me the considerable responsibility of doing everything I can to promote the interests, peace, prosperity and well-being of the international community.

I should also like to thank His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, and to express my utmost consideration, appreciation, gratitude and respect for his stewardship of that session. He fulfilled that vital role with courage and wisdom.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have met with you in regional groups and bilateral meetings. Your trust and support have given me confidence in myself and in the future of the United Nations, which is our only hope for security, peace, well-being and prosperity.

The United Nations and, in particular, the General Assembly, is the way to a better future. People of all colours, religions and origin must cooperate and engage in dialogue through our Organization.

The world has become much smaller as a result of tremendous progress in information and communications technology. We all feel now that whatever affects some of us also affects the others, and that dialogue is the only solution. Despite that realization and that hope, we should not make light of the problems that confront us.

All of us believe that the United Nations is in need of reform and democratization. The General Assembly, which represents the entire world, has been hampered by the obstacles in its path. It has been unable to implement or enforce its resolutions. The General Assembly must be reformed to regain its international legitimacy by ensuring that its voice is heard and respected and its resolutions implemented.

The reform of the Security Council, the expansion of its membership and the realization of equitable geographic representation are also of the utmost importance. Most of the world's inhabitants do not

enjoy democratic representation. Africa is comprised of 53 States, none of which is a permanent member in the Security Council; yet they have all the privileges of the permanent members. The same is true of Latin America and of the small countries represented by the Forum of Small States, which account for over half of the world's inhabitants.

It is vital to reform the Security Council and to revitalize the General Assembly so that they can comprehensively fulfil their roles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dialogue and mutual understanding are the way to resolve our problems. Embargos and blockades are fruitless: they exacerbate antagonism and rebellion, while undermining respect for the will of the international community. Their only effect is on the population.

Whatever their causes, wars are a humanitarian tragedy that cannot be justified. We must put an end to wars and to their causes and consequences.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding the work that has been done with a view to reducing the gap between rich and poor, that gap has been growing steadily wider. The poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer, most often at the expense of the poor and by exploiting the resources with which they are endowed. In an unequal world, we cannot hope for peace and security to prevail.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have all condemned terrorism, which causes instability and endangers the international community. Yet despite our joint efforts and resolutions, terrorism continues to grow and spread. We must address its roots and take a close look at its causes and contributing factors. This is true of terrorism carried out by individuals, groups and States; State terrorism is the harshest form of terrorism.

The situation in the Middle East, which has remained unresolved for over 60 years, is another threat to the international community. Despite the resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council, peace remains a distant prospect.

Through the General Assembly, the United Nations must assume a serious new role. The numerous resolutions of the United Nations must be respected and implemented.

The Palestinian people's aspirations towards independence and its right to return to its land in accordance with United Nations resolutions are two fundamental conditions for the swift realization of peace and security in that sensitive part of the world.

There must be an end to settlement activities, which have been condemned by the entire international community. The removal of illegal and illegitimate settlements would help to achieve security and a just peace in accordance with the resolutions with which we must comply.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Your Excellencies,

Most of the world's peoples live below the poverty line. Millions continue to die of hunger, malnutrition and disease. Such tragedies are a cause of concern for all of us. War and tension remain widespread. We cannot build or achieve progress in a world where instability and insecurity prevail.

Development and security are interdependent. We are faced with many momentous issues whose resolution requires dialogue, cooperation and community spirit.

The theme of the sixty-fourth session encompasses joint responsibility for development, the realization of peace and security and the dialogue of civilizations, all of which are pressing issues.

The Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General will take place over the next few days. This could be an opportunity for us to leave with recommendations for the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, which will focus on the danger of climate change.

That topic, which is the subject of international consensus, affects the future of us all. We must work together, not only to attenuate the danger but to end it and protect this planet, which is home to us all.
Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our development goals for the third millennium, for which we determined as a deadline the year 2015, may not be easy to achieve.

The General Assembly will address that issue at its sixty-fourth session, preparing for a high-level meeting in September 2010. I look forward to our joint consultations within the framework of resolution 63/302.

In this connection, the resolutions on joint action for development in Africa coincide with the announcement which we made at the General Assembly.

The crisis of the global economy, which affected us all, rich and poor alike, is another cause of concern for the international community.

In view of the danger posed by that crisis, the relevant resolution of the General Assembly established a working group to follow up on the topic and promote any recommendations that could be undertaken jointly in order to remedy the situation. I call on all States to consider the issue and take part in the search for solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The goal of disarmament and non-proliferation is shared by all mankind, particularly with respect to weapons of mass destruction, which currently pose such a threat. We must shoulder responsibility and work not only towards non-proliferation and elimination of nuclear weapons but also towards the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction.

Your Excellencies,

I assure you that I shall do my utmost to ensure that the United Nations General Assembly gives sustained, serious and responsible consideration to, reaches consensus on, and resolves the issues that are brought before it.

Your Excellencies,

I should like to commend the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for the support that he has extended to me. We will be working very closely together, with a view to achieving our goals of development, stability and security.

I shall also be making every effort to ensure full cooperation and coordination with the Security Council in various fields: our common interests demand that there be such coordination and consultation.

I assure you **Excellencies** that my door will be open to everyone.

In conclusion, I pray that we may achieve our aims and aspirations for well-being, development, security and stability.

Thank you.