

GEORGIA



STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 September 2005
New York

Check against delivery

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson on his election as the President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. Let me assure you of my delegation's support for the important work that lies ahead.

I would like also to extend my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Je an Ping for his tireless efforts and vision for change he has demonstrated so amply during his Presidency.

Mr. President,

Our organization is now at a turning point of its history. Sixty years after its foundation, having confronted many challenges, having faced many threats, having been defied by so many conflicts, The UN is now entering the XXIst century with the obligation to reform itself. The bipolar world has come to its end, new threats of a global nature have emerged: international terrorism, conflicts of a different breed, development and environmental global challenges – and I want here to renew to the American delegation the message of solidarity of the Georgian people in the face of the New Orleans tragedy. Our organization has no other choice but to adapt, to find new instruments, to establish a renewed credibility which can only be based on a proven efficiency, results, visible effects. Words do not suffice, deeds are expected from us all.

Mr. President,

We consider the Final Declaration adopted by the World Summit 2005 as a substantial step in the right direction. This document deals with all the real issues that, as we all know, are going to define tomorrow's world and affect our organization's fate.

Whether we are talking about eradication of poverty, consolidation of peace and security, protection of Human rights, protection of displaced persons, need for an effective system of peace keeping and for a coherent approach to peace building, negative effects of transnational crime, responsibility to protect populations from ethnic cleansing, or whether we reaffirm the absolute necessity of a dialogue among cultures and civilizations, all of these challenges are for my country of direct relevance.

For Georgia, these threats are not words, these ills are no theory, they are daily realities, directly experienced tragedies; thus, our support for an effective reform is not a matter for a rhetorical stand. At stake are our vital interests. At stake is the future of my country. Georgia is directly experimenting on its soil the consequences of so called frozen conflicts; frozen conflicts lead to the freezing of the economic development of these separatist regions, freeze the democratic development of the society in these regions, isolate them and close them, transforming them into outlaws, "black holes" where all kinds of trafficking, criminal activities, including possibly terrorist activities, could develop outside of our control as well as any form of control, outside of any law. Frozen conflicts do call, as well as active conflicts, for the development of a real

capacity of the UN, an effective involvement through instruments of peace building. For so many years, the UN has indeed been dealing with the Abkhazian conflict, but it has unluckily not managed to get effective results. It has proven unable to deploy the small police component which was decided upon, unable to implement fully its own resolutions, unable to deploy its own effective peace keeping capability, unable to monitor the Human rights violations that are happening daily and massively. Gradually, despite the UN and despite the regular meetings of the Security Council, despite the Group of friends, a regime of apartheid where Georgians are excluded, forbidden to go back to their land and their homes, a process of untold annexation is taking place. Thus, Abkhazia will be a litmus test of the renewed efficiency of our organization, of its capacity to effectively monitor, to manage peace keeping without having to delegate its responsibilities to third parties, to finally enact strategies of effective peacebuilding.

In the case of the south ossetian conflict in Georgia, we have a similar situation. The Georgian President has presented two mutually reinforcing peace proposals in one year's time: one last year, in front of this Assembly, setting the three phases for ending the conflict through demilitarization, economic rehabilitation and political dialogue. In " December, it was complemented by a full fledged proposal on a status of wide autonomy, prepared together with the Venice commission and presented at the Council of Europe. But peace plans are not enough. We now need a mechanism through which the international community will effectively support initiatives and policies that are directed towards peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Mr. President,

For all these reasons, we are taking very seriously the outlines of the new document and want to see it fully developed and implemented:

We welcome and support the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing Police Capacity. This is a very right step in the very right direction.

We welcome the creation of a Human Rights Council: this new body should be more representative, should comply with the highest standards of objectivity, it should avoid double standards as well as omissions or silences. An effective system of monitoring should be put into place. The strengthening of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights is also going in the right direction.

We welcome the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission that will develop integrated strategies for post-conflict rehabilitation and recovery. But we also need a more effective framework for moving smoothly from peace making to peace building and thus to develop an all inclusive and coherent strategy where the UN will assume its responsibilities fully. This peacebuilding commission should be fully representative of the countries that have been or are the most directly affected by the conflicts. Also, given the special fate of women and children in the conflict and post-conflict situations, gender representation should be given special attention. "Representation is essential", "Knowledge is key" - as we, women foreign ministers, have mentioned in our letter to the Secretary General and President of the GA..

Finally, we support the reform and the revitalization of the Security Council – a more effective and efficient, more democratic, more transparent body is called for. Georgia supports the enlargement proposals in order to give non permanent members a better chance to contribute to major decisions. Transparency and improved decision making procedures are a must. Georgia is convinced that if there is an adequate political will, the relevant agreement on a reformed Security Council can be reached at the present session of the General Assembly.

This is our wish. Moreover, this is a necessity.

Our credibility is at stake.

Not only the UN, but all the major international organizations are going through a difficult process of adjustment, of renewal and reappraisal. That is the case for the OSCE, for the EU, for the Council of Europe, for the CIS. Some will survive and grow stronger. Some will have to leave ground to other forums, more flexible, less bureaucratic, more in line with today's realities.

The UN has today started an invaluable process of readjustment and rejuvenation. If our work is successful, this process will go to its term.

The UN will cease to be a mere forum for calling for peaceful solutions; it will become the instrument the world needs, the instrument for actually resolving the conflicts that are a shame for today's global world, the instrument for effectively responding to the newer global threats that endanger our development and our stability...

Thank you.