

*Permanent Mission of Romania  
to the United Nations  
New York*



*Mission permanente de la Roumanie  
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies  
New York*

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## **STATEMENT**

by

H.E. Ambassador Teodor Baconschi,  
State Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

**at**

the General Debate of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the General Assembly of the United Nations

*New York, September 21st, 2005*

**Monsieur le Président,**

**Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,**

Je tiens à joindre la voix de la Roumanie à ceux qui ont vivement félicité Son Excellence M. Jan Eliasson pour son élection à l'importante position de Président de notre Assemblée Générale, tout en lui souhaitant plein succès et l'assurant de l'entier appui de ma délégation.

Pour la Roumanie, les débats politiques de la 60ème Session de l'Assemblée Générale revêtent une signification spéciale, car ces jours-ci elle célèbre une cinquantaine d'années de présence et participation active aux efforts communs par l'entremise des Nations Unies pour la paix, la sécurité et le développement durable, pour l'assistance aux populations en détresse, ainsi que pour la promotion des droits de l'homme.

De l'autre côté, l'anniversaire de six décennies depuis la création des Nations Unies donne à ce nouveau dialogue sous la coupole résonante de l'Assemblée Générale un caractère de bilan. L'ONU a beaucoup accompli en soixante ans, en dépit des difficultés qui semblaient insurmontables et de certaines limitations évidentes. Parfois ces obstacles n'étaient dus qu'au manque de perspectives partagées à l'égard des problèmes auxquels nous nous confrontons. Pourtant nous avons réussi ensemble à maintenir la gestion de la sécurité mondiale.

Il est incontestable que le contexte international actuel requiert, davantage, de notre part, non seulement le courage d'un long regard critique, mais aussi la force de prendre des décisions responsables et des mesures fermes, tant sur le plan politique qu'institutionnel, pour faire en sorte que les Nations Unies soient capables de répondre aux défis du 21ème siècle et de continuer à jouer un rôle majeur au service du bien.

**Mr. President,**

Romania aligns herself fully with the statement delivered earlier by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on behalf of the EU. In my address I will, therefore, only complement the key points already made there on the challenges of reform. We can be proud of where the Union stands today on the global scene and of its UN record.

Ours is not at all yet another general debate at the start of a new session of the General Assembly. We are called to rise up to the responsibility consequential to the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly which preceded these debates. The Heads of State and Government committed all of us, through the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to continue the efforts to reform our Organization. It is in our hands now to implement and make the most of our leaders' decisions.

Against this backdrop, I wish to commend President Ping for the outstanding work that he has done in the past few months, together with his facilitators, and for the way he conducted negotiations. It was a difficult process, but I believe that we now have in front

of us a document which we can be satisfied with. Many aspects in it still need further elaboration, but the General Assembly is ready to work on them under the skilful guidance of President Eliasson.

**Mr. President,**

The United Nations should continue to accomplish multilayered objectives, and to function and operate as a complex and effective organization. This is the spirit of deliberations and decisions taken by the Heads of State and Government.

Much remains thus to be done in relation to the challenges and opportunities generated by the First Committee mandate and responsibilities. Debates on international security are still tributary to arrangements achieved during the Cold War. Unfortunately, almost all multilateral negotiating fora seem complacent in conservatism. And we all agree that it is difficult to advance the political dialogue and to set new priorities against these premises.

We need a new dynamic, anchored in a genuine reform process. It has to be tailored to respond effectively to the most ominous threats to international peace and security, namely terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It has to become truly relevant for our needs and to produce equal dividends in a system based on the concept of collective security.

I recognize it is a real art to find the middle ground between relevance and efficiency. If the ultimate target of our political commitments is indeed "effective multilateralism", perhaps we then have to go beyond what is relevant to each us at a strictly national level and help bring about a new international security agenda. Let us make use of both the insight and hindsight generated by lessons learned during the negotiation of the relevant chapter in the Outcome Document in order to make real progress on this critical issue, and that within a predictable timeframe.

**Mr. President,**

Success in the area of development calls for broad solidarity in international economic relations. Development and poverty eradication can no longer be approached only in technical terms. A coherent and effective policy would include, apart from financial and technical assistance, support for activities in education, culture, good governance, rule of law and democratic institutions.

This is the vision that guided Romania in her bilateral relations with developing countries. In the context of global political changes, including the outcomes of world conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations, and supported by her own rapid pace of economic growth, Romania has gradually increased her contribution aimed at resolving global development issues. And the EU accession will make Romania a member of the world's largest donor community.

The United Nations must develop and strengthen its capacity to protect and promote effectively human rights and fundamental freedoms, by upholding the concept of "responsibility to protect", calling for international response in cases where a state is unable or unwilling to discharge its primary function - protecting the life, property and fundamental rights of its own citizens.

This imperative is convincingly illustrated by the fact that, over the past fifteen years, we witnessed how a number of internal conflicts, frequently started as separatist movements, evolved towards the status of "frozen conflict". They became breeding grounds for egregious violations of human rights and abuses, targeting the most vulnerable categories, such as children, women and persons belonging to various minorities.

The United Nations should not hesitate to activate its mechanisms to address this type of situations, by taking appropriate measures, first in the diplomatic and humanitarian field, and then, on a stronger note, by adopting enforcement measures through the Security Council or approved by the Security Council, if appropriate in cooperation with regional organizations.

**Mr. President,**

We can not debate an ambitious policy agenda without an effective UN system adapted to the new realities of a changing world. Years after the end of the cold war, the UN is still struggling to make the transition from refereeing ideological differences to actively responding to pressing operational challenges. Institutional change is an absolute prerequisite for successful policy results.

One of the main problems besetting the Organization is at risk of being perpetuated, that is, increasingly high expectations and demands without adequate resources and appropriate managerial tools. We have to stop fixing only the immediate visible crevices in the system, to drop the "band-aid solution" mentality and aim for an overhaul of the UN machinery.

In times when there are voices calling into question the relevance of this Organization and when we have to cope with a succession of recent mismanagement revelations, we - the Secretariat and Member States together - need to act resolutely to ensure UN's efficiency and credibility by improving administration performance, establishing viable mechanisms for responsibility and accountability of the Secretariat, strengthening the audit and oversight functions and endowing the Secretary General with the authority and flexibility needed to effectively manage the mandates entrusted by the Membership.

**Mr. President,**

The dual logic of reflection and action has been Romania's reading of *the spirit of the time* all-encompassing this propitious 60th year in the United Nations Organization's history. It was indeed essential that the deep reflection on the UN reform process did

equate neither with a zero-sum political energy allocation, nor with a pause in the multiple actions the United Nations are called to assume daily, facing the array of both old and new challenges at the global and regional level.

Against this backdrop, for Romania, as for the other members of the United Nations, the Security Council has continued to be the body which charts the international relations on critical issues that are threatening regional and global peace. It is highly commendable that the Security Council has assumed the leading role in turning early awareness and firmness into cornerstones of the UN and the international community approach towards the full range of new threats to international peace and security.

With over 2,000 peacekeepers on duty around the world, Romania is a major stretch and a significant investment in a wide range of U.N.-mandated and U.N.-authorized operations, and we have therefore a very high stake in their successful outcome.

Romania's view has consistently been that protection against security threats is comprised of more than taking a stand at one's own border; we have to go where these challenges originate and approach them with resolute action and sustained investments. This is part of the rationale for Romania's joint endeavors with partners and allies in shouldering stabilization and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan. In both countries elections are coming across following tremendous dedication and painstaking efforts of first their people but also of a steadily engaged international community. Romania bears her share of this burden all the way through.

**Mr. President,**

Since 9/11, the international edifice, as well as our common values of peace and security, have been shattered by an unprecedented surge of terrorist activities. Romania was among the first countries to embark on the efforts undertaken globally, as well as regionally, to combat this scourge. Starting that day, we have constantly been in the forefront of the fight against terrorism, both on the ground and by actively participating in the process of shaping up successive initiatives in different fora.

Romania has further carried out her specific contribution to international counter-terrorism efforts as an elected member of the UN Security Council, by assuming, inter alia, the chairmanship of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction.

Romania has already **advanced through** the process of ratification of the 12 relevant international conventions adopted in this field and has transposed an important part of their provisions in its national legislation. I am proud to inform you that my President signed, on September 14, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 April 2005.

Romania shares the EU Stand on the urgency of adopting of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

**Mr. President,**

Our crucial aim should be to see the day when the international community is able to address each and every security challenge anywhere by better pooling together existing resources and capabilities.

We were pleased to see in the Summit Outcome the recognition given to the important contribution regional organizations make to peace and security.

The Heads of State and Government expressed their support for a stronger UN - regional organizations relationship, under Chapter VIII of the Charter. They resolved to expand this dimension of the new architecture of international peace and security through formalized agreements between the respective secretariats and, as appropriate, involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council.

Indeed, under U.N. auspices, we have witnessed regional ownership over local conflicts being buttressed by contributions from organizations such as African Union, NATO and the European Union. In such instances, geographical distance is no match for common aspirations for functioning democratic systems, ruled by the law, and for sustainable development.

Romania's particular experience in South-Eastern Europe and the Black Sea area indicates that, in the like of conflict management, as well as in handling responses to transnational threats, regional action, reinforced by meaningful cooperation between the UN and regional organizations, is decisive.

In the Balkans, the way in which the **Kosovo** issue will be addressed over the coming months is going to be crucial for the overall prospects of lasting stability, integration and prosperity for the whole region.

The **UN led policy of standards in Kosovo** has improved the situation in the region. There are now fewer odds for violence and conflict than ever in the past and we can start looking more confidently into the future. **However**, the job is not done yet. Serbs and other ethnic communities in Kosovo still fear for their security and cannot live a normal life. There are also too many still expected to return to their homes.

**Therefore**, the comprehensive standards implementation must continue, with thorough consideration given to securing and protecting normal relations between ethnic communities as well as to the rights and freedoms of all people from Kosovo. No one would be able to realistically refer to stability and settlement in the region — according to UN Security Council Resolution 1244 — until such a foundation is achieved.

Ultimately, **Kosovo** is a case for exemplary cooperation between UN and regional organizations like the European Union, OSCE and NATO. This has given the

international community a solid position in a very complex security and political situation.

East of Romania, **in the wider Black Sea area**, development is hampered by a deficit in overall security and stability. I **am referring particularly to** the situation of protracted conflicts in the region – frozen in a state of uncertainty and disregard of international law and scrutiny. Besides their inherent effect on development and political normalcy, these conflict areas also spread in the neighborhood modern *illnesses* such as organized crime, illegal trafficking of arms and drugs, trafficking of human beings, and not least terrorism.

The states of the region have to rise up together to these challenges. They will not be able to do so without close cooperation. They need strong partners, strategic vision and a coherent, more comprehensive approach. It is clear that we have to find something better and more sustainable than responding to conflicts by putting them in the **freezer** for years and decades. **Anticipating resulting benefits from stability in the wider Black Sea area for all involved, the best way is to work towards making the logic of cooperation prevail.**

My contention is that securing the Black Sea area and South Eastern Europe for lasting stability and prosperity is not only entirely within reach, but should also be a priority concern of global import, to the same extent as addressing crises in more troubled areas is, for accomplishing that mission means that we can all rely on a vast land being conflict-free, and open to invest in achieving peace where this is most needed.

Romania will take up in November the Chairmanship of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. In this capacity Romania will try to stimulate all players in the region to think strategically and overcome the burden of these protracted conflicts in the common interest of maximizing region's economic and social potential. Also, given the world's interdependencies, the states of the region need a United Nations that has closer links to regional structures and can enhance this way the effectiveness of joint action.

**Mr. President,**

Whatever the qualification given to the 2005 World Summit Outcome – a blueprint or a road-map – it is beyond any doubt that the UN reform is still a work in progress. As far as Romania is concerned, we continue to stand ready to join you and all the other member countries in the endeavours to prepare the United Nations to meet the weighty demands placed on multilateral cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.