



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. GEORGI PARVANOV

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

HIGH- LEVEL PLENARY MEETING

15 September 2005

United Nations Headquarters
New York

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The collective voice of reason calling for peace and cooperation has, as a rule, prevailed in world politics in the wake of dreadful destructive wars and social cataclysms. Today, 60 years after the end of the most devastating armed conflict in history, humanity has a chance to break this deplorable tradition. I am confident that at this crucial moment we, leaders and peoples of the United Nations, will be able to mobilize the political will and resources needed to prove that lessons of the past have taught us to meet the challenges of the present.

I am here today to add the voice of the Republic of Bulgaria to a common expression of political will by the participants in this high-level forum aimed at speeding up implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening the efficiency of our Organization. It is clear that our aspiration to live in an environment of collective security will not be achieved unless we make dramatic progress in overcoming hunger and poverty, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and mass epidemics, protecting the environment, and expanding access to modern education. Regardless of the significant strides made over the past five years, we cannot be complacent. If the current pace of action is retained, we cannot expect to meet the internationally agreed development goals earlier than the end of the century. Today is the chance for all of us to commit to double and even triple our efforts and stand together in this mission to save mankind. This is why my country unconditionally subscribes to the Outcome Document – a product of a most intensive diplomatic effort over the past several months – regarding it as a solid basis for implementing further the package of commitments made, reaffirmed and developed from this high rostrum.

Mr. President,
The meaning of "security" today differs substantially from what the founding fathers of the UN perceived 60 years ago and even from what we considered 5 years ago. Threats have become much more diverse, subtle and unpredictable. We need a globally responsible thinking expressed in a culture of solidarity, cooperation and mutual assistance. Fighting the destructive force of terrorism, which totally rejects all principles of humanity and democracy, is still our task of primary importance. The new challenges imperatively impose priorities for the UN agenda such as: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, early prevention of crises and conflicts, expanding the capacity of the UN to conduct a broad range

of peace operations. In this context the establishment of a Peace Building Commission has turned into an urgent outstanding task.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

No safer world of freedom, democracy and prosperity can be built without combating effectively international terrorism. However, we cannot meet this challenge if the principles of democracy, pluralism and protection of human rights are infringed upon. For us the concept of "human rights" already includes not only the well-known standards laid down in the UN instruments and further developed in the Millennium Declaration. The people of our countries should have the right to be protected by the international community in the event their own government is denying or unable to give them this protection. This is where we see a role for a new Council on Human Rights and subscribe to the concept of "responsibility to protect". We also call for a greater role and resources for the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, as well as a vibrant UN Fund for Democracy.

Last but not least, for the UN to be capable of coping with a highly challenging environment, no effort should be spared in carrying out the projected institutional reform and in radically improving transparency, accountability and overall efficiency of the Organization. Learning from our failures, we support the policy of "zero tolerance" towards instances of abuse, corruption or mismanagement. Bulgaria is in favor of well-balanced, constructive solutions for a better functioning of the Security Council and the ECOSOC, along with streamlining the work of the General Assembly and its committees.

Mr. President,

Our meeting clearly demonstrates the urgency of reaching a new, action-oriented consensus among Member states on the key issues of our world. Finding an adequate response to burning topics, completing necessary reforms of the activities and structures of the UN, strengthening its role as the universal international organization, all these are of vital importance for the future of humankind.

Thank you.