



# LITHUANIA

**Address by**  
**H.E. Valdas ADAMKUS,**  
**President of the Republic of Lithuania**  
**at the**  
**United Nations High-Level Meeting**  
**on**  
**Implementation of the Millennium Goals**

**New York**  
**September 15, 2005**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by expressing my appreciation for the leadership of Secretary General Kofi Annan and the determination of outgoing General Assembly President Jean Ping for taking up and promoting with great dedication and vigour the comprehensive reform agenda of this organization.

The world has changed significantly since the foundation of the United Nations. Our organization must change accordingly, in order to be able to fully and effectively respond to the expectations of our nations. I therefore believe that the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and a comprehensive reform of the organisation must go hand in hand.

Courage to change must be an essential attribute of this summit. **Courage** to embrace a UN reform that reaffirms and locks in the intrinsic link between development, security, and human rights. Courage to implement to the fullest the purpose of the United Nations "to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends".

Mr. President,

We cannot go about this summit as business as usual. There is no business as usual in a world which explores the farthest reaches of the universe and yet continues to watch millions of people die from starvation. Where terrorism spreads fear and horror among nations. Where transnational crime, lawlessness, and corruption make a mockery of human hope for a decent existence. Where preventable infectious diseases and natural disasters destroy numerous lives and wipe out entire areas.

The United Nations, created to deal with the legacy of World War Two, must now stand up to these new threats and challenges. To be able do so, a comprehensive reform of the United Nations is necessary, including a major management overhaul ensuring greater accountability, transparency, efficiency, and professionalism.

Also, we can no longer delay the reform of the Security Council, an essential body which should be fully equipped and enjoy requisite legitimacy to operate in a world of increasingly challenging tasks. Lithuania has consistently maintained that the Security Council should be

expanded in both categories of membership, with the inclusion of new major international actors as permanent members.

Mr. President,

It is essential that we reaffirm our previous commitments. But we must go much further. We must build a United Nations for the twenty-first century. Insisting on status quo of this most inclusive multilateral organization will not protect us from the horrors of poverty, extremism, weapons of mass destruction getting into the hands of terrorists, or the ever more threatening effects of environmental degradation.

Our shared responsibility as world leaders is paramount. It is our duty to adopt here, in New York, substantial and far reaching decisions. We, developed and developing countries alike, must work together to accelerate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals across the globe, and especially in Africa. The EU's recent commitment to increase levels of ODA underlines the priority the EU attaches to this enormous task.

As a new donor country, Lithuania fully subscribes to these commitments. We know it will take us time to measure up to common donorship levels. But we are moving ahead, providing advice and assistance from our immediate neighborhood to South Caucasus, to Iraq and Afghanistan. And we are determined to continue. Because we remember the value of assistance extended when we needed it most. And we know the responsibility to help others in our turn.

Mr. President,

To us, who for decades survived by hope of freedom alone, this summit is also about **hope**. We must make sure that the individual, as the main element of the world community of nations, should be placed at the centre of the whole of the United Nations. Mainstreaming of human rights into all areas of activities of the United Nations, promoting democracy and the rule of law, as well as responsibility to protect must be part and parcel of the United Nations of the XXI century.

We therefore call on all nations to take expeditious decisions enabling the creation of an effective Human Rights Council with a robust mandate. A Council that would be fully operational without delay.

Mr. President,

Terrorism threatens our very right to life, our right to live free from fear and open to the diversity of cultures and civilizations around us. The relevance of the United Nations as the truly universal and inclusive organisation will be also measured by how we are protected from the horror of terror, including the threat of weapons of mass destruction getting into the hands of terrorists.

We join other nations in the full condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose, and we fully support the earliest possible adoption of a comprehensive counter- terrorism strategy as well as a relevant convention on international terrorism.

We the United Nations must also offer hope to people in countries emerging from conflict, by ensuring that the vicious cycle of destruction, lawlessness, impunity, and poverty is broken with the help of the international community. We welcome the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission as a significant building block of a renewed United Nations and urge to make it operational before the end of this year.

Responsibility to protect is also about hope. Responsibility to protect is our joint commitment to an individual's right to life. And a promise that he or she will not fall victim to genocide, war crimes or ethnic cleansing while the rest of the world goes about business as usual.

Mr. President,

We, the leaders of the world gathered here this week, are sharing a unique momentum— and the responsibility for reform. As heads of states and governments, we must send a message, loud and clear, regarding the scope and direction of change. We must pledge to continue with vigour implementing a comprehensive package of reforms that will bring out the very best of the United Nations – our United Nations - as a unique vehicle of concerted multilateral action. Because, as Secretary General noted yesterday and as we all witness increasingly, in this interrelated world of the XXI century, we all stand or fall together.

Thank you.