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High-Level Plenary Meeting
60th Session of the General Assembly

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Kostas Karamanlis
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

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**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING
60th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16th

**STATEMENT BY
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Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic**

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

I wish to thank both Co-Presidents of the High Level Meeting, H.E. El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon and H.E. Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden, for presiding over this meeting.

I also wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the Secretary- General Kofi Annan for his tireless efforts for the realization of this historic High Level Event.

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

Five years ago, through the Millennium Declaration, the leaders of the world set ambitious but attainable objectives, encompassing the aspirations of the international community in the new century, for a world united by common values and striving with renewed determination to achieve peace and decent standards of living for every man, woman and child.

Much has happened since then. Considerable progress has been achieved in the eradication of poverty and hunger. The Millennium Development Goals were established and the Monterrey Consensus was adopted. In this global effort, Greece has significantly increased its development assistance. Together with the rest of our European Union partners, we set the ambitious goal of increasing it to 0,56% of our Gross National Income by the year 2010, with particular attention and emphasis on Africa.

Despite the progress achieved, still a lot remains to be done. Significant differences persist between developed and developing countries. Extreme poverty and hunger are the disgrace of our century. Today we have the means to eradicate them. We must persevere in this goal, as indeed in all of the Millennium Development Goals, in order to achieve them by 2015.

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

Five years ago we proclaimed our collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. We have established a comprehensive normative framework with core Human Rights treaties, historic declarations and decades of jurisprudence from treaty bodies and international tribunals. Nevertheless, there is still a dangerous lack of enforcement and implementation on a global level. We must take concrete steps to reduce selective application, arbitrary enforcement and breach without consequence. Those steps will give new life to the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration. In the document we have just adopted, these commitments have been considerably reinforced.

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

Significant events since the Millennium Declaration have had far-reaching consequences and have changed dramatically the way we perceive peace and security. The terrorist attacks in New York and elsewhere have brought to light new global threats and challenges.

In these constantly evolving times, the Declaration we are adopting today is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to certain basic principles, such as:

- The obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the United Nations Charter.
- The peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.
- The authority of the Security Council to take action to maintain and restore international peace and security, and
- The full implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Only through such commitment can we hope to successfully face terrorism, global pandemics, extreme poverty, natural disasters, weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime, massive human rights violations and other scourges of our world.

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our organization, which, built for a different era, has to adapt, in order to be effective in the new international environment. The United Nations, the only truly global

institution of humanity, endowed with a unique legitimacy, must respond to the new realities and challenges.

The Declaration we are adopting today constitutes, in our view, a good beginning in the long path of necessary reforms. It is a strong political call encompassing most of the suggested ideas in development, peace-building, human rights, peace-keeping, and UN institutions.

Thank you Mr. President.