



***Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and
International Cooperation***

Statement

By

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Before

**The High Level Plenary Meeting of the
Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly**

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Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure at the outset to congratulate you on your selection as president of the High Level Plenary meeting. Undoubtedly, the deliberations of this forum will be steered effectively and will achieve optimum results thanks to your wisdom and competence. I would like also to seize this occasion to express our satisfaction with the manner in which your predecessor Mr. Jean Ping, Foreign Minister of Gabon, steered the deliberations of the previous session of the General Assembly and the intensive consultations which had been conducted throughout the elapsed year in preparation for this meeting.

We wish also to express our gratitude for the efforts exerted by Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations in order to enforce the decisions of the Organization, realize the objectives embodied in its charter, and embark on a comprehensive reform process of all its bodies.

Mr. President,

Since the foundation of the United Nations, our countries have convened here, at this forum, regularly in order to realize the objectives embodied in the Charter and achieve the aspirations of our peoples in reaching peace, security, progress and prosperity, through joint efforts. A great deal has been achieved in some areas, but many challenges remain. Some of these challenges are old, much older, in fact, than our Organization, such as poverty, ignorance, diseases and armed conflicts. Others are new, brought about by the changes and scientific progress which the world has witnessed over the last decades. These challenges include the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the fight against terrorism and the transnational organized crime, as well as reaping maximum benefits from the information revolution and making the optimum use of biotechnology, taking into account the ethical norms and considerations.

International solidarity, translated into concrete actions, is the only means for the establishment of an equitable global economic system, which achieves sustainable development and leads to a partnership on equal footing, between North and South. Such solidarity will also be conducive to the realization of the objectives expressed in the Millennium Declaration.

To reach all these goals, we have to enforce the solutions we endorsed in the Millennium Declaration, Doha Declaration, and in the outcomes of the Monterrey and Johannesburg Conferences in order to optimally harness the resources of our planet, put an end to conflicts, eliminate poverty, illiteracy, and dangerous diseases such as AIDS and Malaria, as well as to ensure the provision of potable water for all and the achievement of sustainable development.

We also urgently need effective international cooperation, under the umbrella of the United Nations, in order to eradicate terrorism, transnational organized crime, eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, enforce respect of human rights, and guarantee the rule of law, and its respect, by all. We need moreover to consolidate international solidarity to combat racism and xenophobia, and to implement our obligations concerning the protection of the environment and the fight against desertification.

It is also incumbent upon us to work seriously towards the achievement of our target of halving the number of people suffering from hunger by the year 2015, take decisive action to resolve the problem of external debt, which burdens a number of developing countries, and remove the obstacles which impede the access of the products of developing countries to international markets. Developed countries have also an obligation to realize the ratios agreed upon as Official Development Assistance (ODA) from their gross national income to developing countries. Furthermore, developed countries which impose coercive measures on some developing countries, must put an end to such measures, in demonstration of their respect for the international decisions which condemned such measures and asked for their cancellation.

We seize this occasion to urge creditors, both from developed countries and international institutions, to cancel the debts of poor countries. We call for the intensification of international efforts to eradicate agricultural pests, introduce low cost water desalination plants, and expand the efforts made to combat desertification, reclaim lands and render them suitable for agriculture.

Sixty years have elapsed since the foundation of this organization, yet despite all the sincere efforts made, it has not succeeded in its endeavors to alleviate to peoples' suffering from wars, poverty, diseases, and ignorance, as much as it aspired when it first drafted its own charter.

This state of affairs resulted from the fact that the victorious countries which wrote the Charter have given themselves rights and privileges that led to the marginalization of the General Assembly, and rendered the Security Council, in its present form, " Inequitable and unbalanced ". These factors made the Organization less democratic, and the Veto privilege much abused. Those states deemed "friends" have received support, even when wrong, enabling them to enjoy impunity and escape condemnation. Other states, however, have been unjustly punished by sanctions because their policies are not considered harmonious with those of some of the privileged countries in the Security Council. The United Nations, therefore, has failed in its administration of justice among peoples, making it imperative for all of us to endeavor towards the reform of this Organization.

In view of the fact that the members of the Organization have now reached (191) States, and the emergence of new problems which impede peoples' emancipation and growth, such as issues of development, terrorism, environment, poverty, and epidemics, the process of reform requires that the power of decision-making must rest solely with the General Assembly, an organ in which all states enjoy equal powers of voting. On the other hand, the Security Council should act as an executive body which implements the decisions of the General Assembly, rather than a forum in which such decisions are vetoed.

Mr. President,

Although we feel disappointed by the fact that the issue of UN reform had been reduced to the expansion of the Security Council throughout the consultations we had during the previous session, we did clarify our position, vis-a-vis document A/59/876, on 18 July 2005, stressing that the African continent is the only continent which does not enjoy permanent membership in the Security Council. This continent, therefore, deserves to have a permanent seat in the Security Council, as an entitlement for the previous period, even without a process of UN reform. Afterwards, it may enter the competition for the new permanent seats, similar to other continents.

We, as members of the African Union, affirm our adherence to the common African position, issued by the Fifth Summit Conference, held in Sirt on the 4th and 5th of July 2005, and reaffirmed by the 4th Extraordinary Session of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 4th August 2005. This position states that two permanent seats be allocated to Africa in the Security Council, with all privileges, including the power of veto, in addition to five non-permanent seats, as well as the reinforcement of the leading role of the General Assembly.

We prefer that the permanent African seats be reserved for the African Union, rather than for any specific country. They will then be filled by rotation among the Union member states, as was decided in the Harare summit conference in 1997.

Thank you, Mr. President...