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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement of

**H. E. Dr. Mustafa Osman ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Before

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

New York, 16 September 2005

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In the Name of Allah, The Merciful, The Beneficent

Mr. President

At the outset, allow me to express my sincere congratulations for electing you to preside over this historical meeting. I am fully confident that your wisdom as well as your renowned political and diplomatic expertise will guide us to achieve the desired results. I would like to express my deep appreciation to H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, for the distinguished leadership he provided during the fifty ninth session of the General Assembly which prepared for this meeting. It is also my pleasure to commend his Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, for his persistent efforts in leading the International Organization on the path of reform, modernization and advancement towards its noble goals and objectives.

I would also like to commend the concerted and constructive efforts exerted by the International community and crowned by this historical summit. It is a courageous initiative which reflects the conscious and attentive response of the International Community to the challenges it faces, and at the same time, expresses its sincere desire for collective actions to firmly and decisively confront these challenges to build a new international order guided by the values of justice, equality, respect for human dignity, and governed by the principles of the International Law.

Mr. President

This is a historic and unique opportunity for us to shoulder the responsibility of confronting present threats, through consolidating the central role of the United Nations, by enabling it to assume its role in effectively maintaining international peace and security. The International Organization has been and should remain the platform that represents the collective responsibility, the concept of multilateralism, as well as the efforts and will to create a stable and secure world.

In this context, this summit represents a real test for the international community's will to prove its ability to realize the aspirations of all member states of the Organization.

Mr. President

At the forefront of the priorities of this summit is the issue of sustainable development and the liberation of billions of people from poverty, diseases and the hunger. In this context, we are deeply concerned about the modest achievements that have been made regarding the implementation of the millennium development goals, which have raised the aspirations of millions of people for a world in which they live in dignity.

The economic and social conditions in the least developed countries continue to deteriorate. Moreover, the number of least developed countries has increased since the Millennium Summit. This grave development should remind us that what we decide to do to help these countries during this summit should be the criteria for the credibility of our commitment for development and poverty reduction. The least to be done is to assist these countries to implement the Brussels plan of action timely.

It is necessary to build strategies and adopt policies which would address the concerns and satisfy the needs of the developing countries to build their capacity and raise their economic conditions. Unless we fulfill the needs of the developing countries, collective security will be mere illusions. We cannot dream of a secure world while the African Continent still suffers the burden of debts, poverty and diseases and the imbalance in International economic and trade systems.

The complete cancellation of debts, the fulfillment of official development aid obligations and enabling developing countries to be incorporated into the international trade are all essential to restore the balance of the world economy.

Mr. President

Based on our deeply-rooted belief that terrorism is a continuous threat to international stability and security, Sudan reiterates its condemnation of all forms of terrorism and calls for intensifying efforts to combat terrorism through concerted international endeavors, guided by the principles of international legitimacy. In this context, we support the call for holding an international conference to reach a consensual definition of terrorism and find ways for combating it. It is important to distinguish, and even draw a line, between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation.

We emphasize the need for the efforts of combating terrorism to respect the principles of international legitimacy in order to prevent any unilateral measures and violation of international law. In this regard, I would like to recall that my country since 1998 continued to call the United Nations and the international community to take a just stance in conformity with principles of justice and international law on the attack on Alshifa pharmaceutical factory in 1998 under the cover of combating terrorism. The attack has negatively impacted on the development efforts of my country and deprived my people from basic medicines. Today, we reiterate our call to the United Nations to take the necessary measures within the framework of the international law, and appeal to the international community to support this just and legitimate request.

Mr. President

The Sudan has always believed that clash of civilizations is a fallacy. We all strive to build a world where peoples enjoy peace, security, stability and

peaceful coexistence. My country has been supporting the initiatives that aim at consolidating the values of dialogue among different civilizations. Accordingly, I would like to welcome and support the initiative launched last July by the Spanish Prime Minister which called for an alliance among civilizations and underlined capabilities which could be devoted towards the integration of civilizations, instead of feeding the baseless and groundless understanding of an inevitable confrontation.

Mr. President

In the light of comprehensive reform efforts, several proposals have been debated, with the purpose of setting up new institutions within international organization and reforming the existing ones to enable the organization to shoulder its responsibilities effectively. It may be appropriate to emphasize the importance of establishing such institutions on the basis of credibility, transparency and the principles of the charter while observing the interests of all member states.

Within this framework, we support the establishment of a peace-building commission affiliated with the Economic and Social Council, where states emerging from conflict are fairly represented. The commission should carry out its duties neutrally based on the purpose for which it is established. We are also in favor of setting up a permanent peace-building fund which would provide urgent assistance to those states in order to finance their urgent needs after concluding peace agreements, for issues such as mine removal, resettlement of refugees and displaced persons.

Mr. President

The Sudan inspired by its values and beliefs is committed to respect human dignity and promote human rights. It closely follows and supports all proposals which aim to reform human rights institutions; including the proposal to set up a human rights council.

The problem which the international community faces when tackling human rights issues lies in double standards, selectivity and the attempts to exploit human rights for political purposes. Hence, reform of practices rather than institutions is urgently required.

Mr. President

Within the framework of our current efforts to promote collective security and stability, it is imperative to intensify our efforts to rid ourselves from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), particularly nuclear weapons. It is necessary that member states of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) fulfill their obligations and attempt to improve verification systems so as to allow states to use nuclear energy peacefully.

We emphasize our call to take the necessary steps aiming at eliminating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. President

Undoubtedly, you are following the positive developments on the Sudanese arena which have led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; which continues to be implemented in a serious and concerted manner. Allow me to pay tribute to the late First Vice President John Garang, who has been a principal partner in reaching this historical peace agreement.

In this regard, the formation of the government of national unity has almost been completed with the broad participation of most of the political parties. The constitution of the transitional period has also been adopted.

Concerted efforts are exerted in collaboration with the international community to consolidate peace, development and stability.

In light of the efforts exerted to achieve comprehensive and a sustainable peace, Sudan seeks to put an end to the fighting in Darfur. At this point, we would like to praise the sincere efforts of the African Union (AU) which have culminated in the signing of the Declaration of Principles which represents a roadmap for reaching a just settlement for the Darfur problem. Sudan looks forward to the support of the international community for the efforts of African Union to reach a just and final peaceful settlement in Darfur.

Mr. President,

Finally, I would like to express Sudan's deep appreciation for the International Community's support, during the war years, which provided humanitarian aid and assisted in the peace efforts. We are also confident that the international community will continue to support our sincere efforts to build peace and stability. The strong commitments made in Oslo Donors Conference are the best testimony for the will of the international community. The fulfillment of those pledges gives us hope in addressing the urgent needs of reconstruction, the settlement of refugees and displaced persons, as well as strengthening peace and stability.

I thank you Mr. President