

In the Name of God the Most Compassionate and Merciful

**Statement by
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Minister of Information and Culture
Personal Representative of the
President of the United Arab Emirates
Head of Delegation
High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly-60th Session
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Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to convey to you the congratulations of H.H Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, on the election of your friendly country as President of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly. I would also like to express our appreciation to the President of the Gabonese Republic for the efforts made by his country in managing the activities of the previous Session of the General Assembly.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation for the efforts made by H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, towards strengthening and invigorating the role of the United Nations, and for his comprehensive report "In Larger Freedom, Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All".

And on this occasion, I would like to offer, on behalf of the government and the people of the United Arab Emirates, our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of the United States of America and families of the victims of Hurricane Katrina for the tragic loss in human life and property caused by the Hurricane. Mr. President,

We consider this meeting a valuable opportunity to review and assess the progress made in the implementation of the development goals which we pledged in the Millennium Declaration which represents a road map for the international efforts aiming to achieve prosperity and dignity for our people according to the principles of equality, justice and fairness. This meeting also provides an

opportunity to develop a collective vision on how to effectively address the present challenges and the resulting new dimensions of collective security.

Mr. President,

The UAE affirms the central role of the UN and stresses the importance of its Charter, which represents the main reference for building international relations built on respect, freedom, equality, tolerance and joint responsibility. In this context, the UAE would like to re-emphasize the importance of strengthening the United Nations and the reform of its principal organs in order for it to meet its growing responsibilities and to strengthen its role.

Mr. President,

The benefits of progress made in the economic, social and humanitarian fields have reached only a very small group of the world population , on the other hand, a high percentage of the people in the world continue to suffer from poverty, hunger, serious diseases, unemployment, illiteracy, displacement as well as the negative effects of armed conflicts and foreign occupation , in addition to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons, transnational crime, drug trafficking and the violations of human rights , all of which pose grave threats to international peace and security, and impede sustainable development, which we strive to realize.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates is strongly convinced that development is the most important issue of our time since it represents the way to the elimination of poverty, hunger, and the achievement of security and stability for our people. From this view, we emphasize the importance of addressing international challenges through a clear vision of collective security , one based on the consideration that the development and the welfare of the people are main concerns, and which can be translated into a global partnership that ensures the commitment of developed and developing countries to take concrete steps to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of all the UN conferences and summits on different areas of development, especially those of Monterrey , Johannesburg, and the 2nd South Summit of Doha.

Proceeding from this conviction, we also believe that the international efforts towards development will not be fruitful without the maintenance of international peace and security, the achievement of justice and equity for all people, the respect of cultural diversity and the right of people to self -determination, and the end of foreign occupation wherever it exists , including the occupation by Iran of the three islands which belong to the United Arab Emirates ; Greater Tanub, Lesser Taunb and Abu Musa , for which the UAE, along with friends and brotherly countries, have sought a peaceful solution through either bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice.

It is also very important to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement for the Middle East issue and the Palestinian question, strengthen the international efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to prevent the proliferation and production of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in all areas and regions of the world, particularly the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf region. We also urge the international community to support the Iraqi government in its efforts to build a stabilized and united Iraq.

In conclusion, we renew our commitment to the spirit and objectives of the Millennium Declaration, and we hope that this meeting will succeed in reaching a common vision on ways to eliminate the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the development goals, and will enables us to translate our undertakings and commitments into reality.

Thank you Mr. President