



# REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

**STATEMENT  
BY  
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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

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**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies Heads of states and governments,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to address the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. Please allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President on your election to this high position. Albania welcomes cooperating with you and taking this opportunity, I would like to assure you about the full support of my country.

I also would like to express my praise to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his vision and continuous efforts to revitalize and to reform our organization, the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to confirm the commitment of Albania to a strong and coherent United Nations, capable to successfully tackle the new challenges, which we are actually facing. We fully support the joint initiatives and actions aimed at strengthening collective peace and security in order to reach the sustainable and long-term development, to promote human rights and international cooperation. We consider possible the reforming of the Organization in all its aspects only through cooperation, dialogue and consensus.

The global fight against terrorism, especially through guaranteeing an effective response to this collective threat requires the United Nations to continue to play a very important role. Albania has very actively met its obligations and responsibilities in the global fight against terrorism in compliance to the United Nations General Assembly Strategy against Terrorism, which was unanimously passed on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Albania continues to be a stability factor in the region and beyond through its moderating and constructive policy. It contributes with peacekeeping troops in the framework of the United Nations and other security organizations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Georgia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina and recently it deployed 68 troops to Chad as part of EUFOR. Albania is working to enhance the domestic capacities to enable a greater presence aiding global peace and security by deepening the cooperation with the United Nations in the field of peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

Albania has already become part of the United Nations System Wide Coherence to reform the United Nations by willingly joining One UN Program. It fully supports this project and is actively working with the UN agencies to secure new ways of partnership in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and environment. One UN is being carried out in full respect to the national sovereignty, national ownership of development and in compliance to

the needs and priorities of our country, especially of the integration into the European Union and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. As a pilot country we are aware of this responsibility and will do everything possible to transform this initiative into a tangible success.

In my country the Millennium Development Goals are not viewed simply as development objectives, but also as means for growth. Albania has nationalized the MDG-s by drafting and following the step-by-step implementation of the zonal strategies of development and has added one more objective: that of good governance. Keeping in mind the recent and past experiences, meeting the MDG-s in the countries of small and medium income demands continuous support from the national leadership and a more efficient use of resources, a closer partnership among all the players and government, international community and civil society.

We are very active in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations and we are convinced that this initiative presents already a political instrument of the United Nations to build peace in the broader meaning of this term. Following up this commitment Albania has compiled a National Strategy of Inter-cultural Dialogue, which reflects the multi-centennial tradition of full religious harmony and understanding.

Mr. President,

The climate change presents a global concern and threat and as such it affects my country as well. Albania considers this a priority issue by also assessing it in the framework of One UN Program implementation. It joins with determination the international community in the challenge against global climate changes and modestly contributes to reduce the emission quotas to secure a better and more developed future.

The world food crisis continues to be one of the most complex challenges faced by humanity. This crisis affects not only the health and survival of millions all over the world, but it directly threatens the political and economic stability by seriously putting into question the meeting of MDG-s. The causes of this crisis are numerous and complex and as such they demand a multi-level, coherent and well-coordinated response. My country hails the foundation of the High Level Task Force on the world food crisis by the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. President,

Albania has undertaken a full program of institutional, economic and legal reforms. Through these reforms we aim to transform Albania into an attractive country to foreign investments, with an open market and free enterprise. I have the pleasure to point out that the latest World Bank Report listed Albania second among the countries that have implemented successful reforms during 2007-08 on doing business practices. Albania has gained the status of the country with medium income and believes that this progress must be consolidated in compliance with the new challenges of development. The National Strategy of Development and Integration has determined our vision for the upcoming seven years; a country of high democratic standards, fully guaranteeing the fundamental human rights, with sustainable economic and social development aimed at the integrating perspective into NATO and the

European Union and harmonized with the MDG-s – a country providing a better and safer life to the future generations.

Albania enjoys a solid and irreversible relation with the European Union. The Association-Stabilization Agreement serves as our guide and the primary objective is the conclusion of the ratification agreement by the end of this year. The European Union countries and the European Commission have considerably invested in Albania. We have responded not only with the natural gratitude, but also with concrete commitments, with joint and coordinated work programs in the field of good governance, institutional functioning, economic growth, fight against organized crime and corruption.

The path of Albania towards full Euro-Atlantic integration is widely supported by the Albanian public and the entire political spectrum. In particular, receiving the invitation to join NATO at the Bucharest Summit, signing the Alliance adhering protocols on July 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, the ongoing process of ratification – all these mark historical achievements for Albania, – a positive assessment of the new and tangible Albanian reality. Albania will answer with greater responsibility and determination to meet challenges that stem from the full fledged membership in the Alliance, which will serve peace and security not only in the Balkans, but also in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

Mr. President,

Albania pays a particular attention to the strengthening of multilateral regional relations. It has seriously encouraged the process of regional cooperation by being an active partner in all the initiatives undertaken in the South East Europe region. This engagement is serving the promotion of good-neighboring relations, strengthening security, building trust among the regional countries, stability and full integration of all the countries in the region into the Euro-Atlantic structures. Challenges such as the fight against terrorism, organized crime, arms proliferation and border management have an interlinked character and can only be overcome through joint actions, initiatives and commitment. We will continue to play the same constructive role to our benefit and to that of the whole region as well.

Albania considers the foundation of the independent and sovereign state of Kosova as the most important historical event and development of our region at the beginning of this century. An independent and democratic Kosova, oriented towards Euro-Atlantic integration is the just and most sustainable solution, it presents the example of the most successful investment made by the international community towards the implementation of the Rule of Law, to long-term stability, peace and development in the Balkans and beyond.

The independence of Kosova finally frees this part of Europe from the nightmare of war, of inter-ethnic conflicts, of ethnic cleansing and genocide; it fulfills and respects the free will of a people to break free from the political oppression, from historical injustices and inability to develop. Kosova is not being led anymore by the failed Yugoslavia, neither by the new moderating Yugoslavs, but it is being led by the principles of civilized Europe and those of the universalized United Nations.

Albania has been encouraging the people and the government of Kosova in their commitment to build a democratic, laic and multi-ethnic society where, regardless of the ethnical pertinence, all citizens would feel free in their home and property. The new Constitution of Kosova and the Ahtisaari Package meet the highest standards of human rights and offer widespread protection to the all the communities living in Kosova, especially to the Serbs of Kosova.

We are convinced that following the guidelines of the United Nations Secretary-General, all the necessary action will be taken as soon as possible, to reconfigure the United Nations presence and the spreading of the EULEX Mission on the entire territory of Kosova. It will avoid any vacuum of power or superimposition of competences and prevent any possible regressive attempt against this Euro-Atlantic process regardless of its origin and source.

Albania deems as unfounded the efforts to draw parallels between Kosova and the regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and South Osetia. Innumerable historical, judicial, constitutional, political, demographic, etc., arguments demonstrate that Kosova is a unique case, a *sui generis* case, and the solution implemented for it is unique as well. As such, it does not serve and it could not serve as a model to solve other conflicts neither in the region, nor beyond it.

Any political, economical, military or diplomatic endeavor against the consolidation and soundness of the state of Kosova would be a hopeless attempt against the integrating processes towards NATO and the European Union. It would be a regressive move against foreign investments and progress which we need so direly. It cannot be marketed as a value of the European Union. The historical dreams must not darken the vision about the future.

Albania is convinced that the recognition of the new state of Kosova is to the interest of Kosova, of Albania, of Serbia and of all its close and distant neighbors, of Europe and Mediterranean space.

That is why Kosova, – this new political, economical and social reality, – fully deserves to be as soon as possible a member of our United Nations Organization. I call upon you to admit with realism this irreversible development by recognizing and supporting the Republic of Kosova.

Mr. President,

Albania continues to remain committed to cooperate in reaching and fulfilling the United Nations ideals, by fully believing in the active role of the international community in facing the present global challenges. In order to fulfill this mission, we all together must give all our support and readiness to this Organization, which embodies not only the universal values, but also the aspirations of humanity.

Thank you!