



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

**Speech by**

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**&**

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*In the Name of Allah The Most Compassionate The Most Merciful*

**Mr. President,**

I would like at the outset to congratulate you on being elected president of this session, and I am confident that your experience and wisdom will render our work successful. I would like also to express my appreciation for Mr. Sirjan Karim for the efforts he made during his presidency of the General Assembly in its previous session. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General, for his persistent efforts to execute the United Nations resolutions and realize the goals of its charter.

**Mr. President,**

Humanity faces many problems and dangerous challenges, which, however, no matter how big and tremendous would not be difficult to solve and address, if we have the political will and make concerted efforts in order to overcome them.

Out of my country's recognition that security, peace and stability constitute the corner stone and the necessary foundation for progress and development, especially in Africa, it has made all efforts possible to work on solving disputes in Africa, as was the case in Chad, Central Africa and Sudan. My country has always contributed, with some other African countries, in the framework of resolutions made by the Council of Peace and Security of the African Union, to put an end to the insurgency in the Island of Anjouan in the Federal Republic of the Comoros.

**Mr. President,**

United Nations reform still constitutes a pivotal topic for the concerns of the international community. Reform has indeed become a necessity dictated by the current premises prevalent in the international arena. However, while we commend the efforts of the working group appointed by the President of the General Assembly during its previous session concerning the reform of the Security Council, we feel that the process has been very slow because of wide divergences and differences between the groups. Nonetheless, we welcome the consensus reached on the recommendations made by the open – ended working group.

Genuine UN reform is a reform which places the power of decision making in the hands of the General Assembly, in its capacity as the World Parliament, while turning the Security Council into an executive instrument which enforces its decisions. By doing so, we can surmount the Veto obstacle which has concentrated the power of international decisions in the hands of the Permanent Members.

My country, therefore, calls for the convening of High Level Meeting of the General Assembly to be held in a European country in order to enable all world leaders to attend. The said meeting will be devoted to the issue of UN reform.

In this context, we wish to emphasize that the African continent, which is the only continent that has no permanent representation at the Security Council despite the fact that it represents more than one quarter of the total number of UN members, deserves permanent membership on equal footing with other geographical regions. This representation should be given to the African Union, rather than to any specific country in that Union.

**Mr. President,**

We have reached the mid-term of the period fixed for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. While we express our concern regarding the inability of many developing countries, as well as the least developed countries, to achieve the desired goals in this respect, especially in Africa, we affirm that it is imperative for the international community to fulfill its commitments in the field of development assistance and addressing the problems related to the international trade system, and to make the World Trade Organization more effective, as well as to facilitate the accession to the said Organization by developing countries. We welcome in this regard, the convening of the High Level Meeting held by the General Assembly on 22 September 2008, as a side event of this session, devoted to the fulfillment of Africa's development needs. We support the political declaration issued by the meeting, and welcome also the High Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2008. We furthermore look forward to the international follow-up conference for the financing of development to review the implementation of the Monterrey consensus, to be held in Doha. We hope that the conference will achieve its envisaged results. In this framework, and as a contribution from my country to the achievement of the development goals, the idea of the "Ghadafi Road" across the desert, which will connect the northern parts of the African continent with the western and southern parts was launched. It will be an important artery that will enhance trade exchange between the continent's countries.

**Mr. President,**

Corruption, bribery, money laundering and the transfer of funds generated from illegal sources, are all factors which hamper development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries, especially in Africa.

We would like to point out here, with reference to the huge damages inflicted on developing countries as a result of smuggling funds across the borders and deprivation of those countries from the returns of those funds, deposited in the banks of other countries, which the General Assembly emphasized in its decisions that they should be returned to their countries of origin, that there are safe havens which have always been associated with the secrecy of bank accounts to the extent that they have become known as corridors for money laundering crimes and safe shelters for stolen funds and plundered wealth.

It is no longer acceptable to remain silent on those havens which provide protection for money generated from corruption and crime in their financial institutions. Quite often those funds are used by terrorist groups and organized crime bands to threaten the security and stability of states.

**Mr. President,**

My country was among the first states which highlighted the food crisis. The High Level Conference on Food Security, held in Rome in June 2008, was a responsible response from the world leaders to the food crisis and the unprecedented increases in the prices of commodities and energy. I would like in this respect to extend my thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization for their efforts in this field. To confront this problem, my country has adopted the development plans and programmes which aim to achieve food security, through the improvement of the agricultural sector and giving subsidies to farmers. In its African sphere, my country has allocated five billion American dollars to finance several development projects in order to achieve food security in a number of Sahil-Saharan countries. It is also now in the process of financing seven projects in other African countries.



The food crisis has been a topic of personal concern for the Brother Leader of the Revolution, who presented to the tenth meeting of the summit of the Sahil and Sahara States, held in Benin, in June 2008, his initiative for the provision of food and the containment of the hunger crisis in Africa. This initiative is based on the establishment of a mechanism for self sustainment and the harnessing of modern machinery and technology to reclaim lands, and to farm vast areas in Africa, through launching of the "Green Campaign". Through the said Campaign, it will be possible to farm vast areas of lands in the Sahil-Sahara states by mechanized means, instead of traditional methods.

Developed countries can assist Africa in finding a solution to the food problem through increasing development assistance in the field of agriculture, as well as investments which can be used in the establishment of projects such as Anka dam in Congo, which can feed the whole of Africa with electricity. Investment can also be made in the Chad Lake which used to be the sixth largest lake in the world, and has now diminished to one tenth of its previous size. In order to salvage that lake, it is required to implement the project of Palambo dam on the Ubangi river, and connecting the rivers of Ubangi and Shari, so that water will flow from the Ubangi to the Shari river. Huge work is also needed to combat the sands which threaten the flow of the Shari river.

**Mr. President,**

Climate changes and their negative impact will directly hamper the development efforts of many developing countries and will undermine their development gains. Libya is one of the states affected by climate change as it is located in a geographical area which is "arid or semi-arid" and the desert constitutes most of its territory. Libya also suffers from desertification and water scarcity. Libya has made persistent efforts to address those challenges, including the

implementation of the network of the Great Man Made River project to overcome the problems of desertification and drought.

Confronting climate change requires an effective and well-coordinated international effort, based on the principles agreed upon in the Rio Conference of 1992, in terms of the joint responsibility of states, regardless of their differences. From this perspective, we call for the acceleration of reaching a comprehensive international agreement which ensures addressing the reasons behind climate change and the provision of adaptation measures for developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

Out of our belief in the purposes of the UN Charter which calls for the establishment of a world in which peace and security prevail, and in view of the fact that riddance of weapons of mass destruction is an essential factor in building confidence and in the enhancement of peace, security and stability in the world, my country has voluntarily relinquished all its programmes of weapons of mass destruction, which are internationally prohibited, emphasizing, however, its right to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

We strongly refuse, however, the use of double standards in dealing with the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. We condemn any discrimination between one state and another in this respect, and call for making the Middle East a free zone from all weapons of mass destruction.

**Mr. President,**

The Ottawa Agreement concerning anti-personnel mines should be reviewed. The agreement should also include the concerns of many countries such as requiring the states which planted these mines to remove them and provide remedies for all the inflicted damages,

including the treatment of people injured by those mines and compensating them, as well the rehabilitation of the damaged environment.

Powerful states do not need anti-personnel mines to defend themselves. Those mines are the means of weak states to defend themselves. The powerful states, therefore, which guarantee their security against foreign invasion of their lands by strategic and fatal weapons, are indifferent to the needs of the weak states which do not possess offensive weapons, and can only use defensive weapons, the least of which are mines.

**Mr. President,**

The phenomenon of terrorism still constitutes a preoccupation for all members of the international community. Despite all the measures taken to combat terrorism, thanks to international cooperation under the umbrella of the United Nations, this issue still represents a challenge to the international community and an obstacle to the achievement of development, security and stability in various parts of the world.

Eradication of this phenomenon requires the adoption of a specific definition for terrorism. Terrorism is not to be confused with the legitimate right of peoples to struggle and resistance of foreign occupation in order to obtain their freedom and independence, as well as their right to self-determination. Furthermore, associating terrorism with any specific religion, nationality or culture will inflame conflicts between civilizations, religions and cultures. Such a situation is incompatible with the goals of international relations based on mutual respect between different states, cultures and systems of governments. In this respect, we wish to point out that the policies and practices of foreign occupation based on violations of human rights, guaranteed by all international covenants and conventions, constitute one of the worst forms of terrorism in our modern world.



**Mr. President,**

The United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees, adopted in 1951, provides an ideal definition for the refugee status. Furthermore, the International Declaration of Human Rights for 1948 further clarifies the refugee status.

Regrettably, some states have used this right as a camouflage to cover their intentions towards other states. Under the pretext of democracy and respect for human rights, which are noble goals, those countries have opened the door of political asylum to all seekers, including thieves, smugglers of their countries' funds, fugitives from punishment, as well as terrorists, enabling them to continue their subversive activities against their countries.

My country feels, therefore, that the establishment of international criteria and controls which govern political asylum, carefully observing human rights, has a paramount importance, and will have positive impact on combating corruption, terrorism, as well as spreading democracy and avoiding armed conflicts.

**Mr. President,**

The Palestinian people still suffer from the Israeli occupation which has lasted for 60 years, subjecting Palestinians to the fiercest form of occupation and extermination practiced against civilians.

The unjust embargo imposed by the Israeli Occupation Forces on one and a half million of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and the continuation of building settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, ignoring completely and willfully the principles of International Humanitarian Law and the principles of human rights, coupled with policies of demolition of homes, confiscation of lands, displacing populations and the intensification of arrests, are all factors which

impede the realization of peace and stability in the area. Indeed, the realization of peace and stability in the area can only be achieved through the return of all Palestinian refugees to their homeland and the establishment of a democratic state on the land of Palestine in which Arabs and Jews can live, enjoying full rights and obligations, as the Brother Leader of the Revolution proposed.

My country, has always emphasized that there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East unless the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights and the Lebanese lands is ended. In this framework, we reiterate our call to the international community to demand and enforce the withdrawal of the Israeli Occupation Forces from all occupied Arab lands and the compensation of their owners for damages which they suffered as a consequence of that occupation.

**Mr. President,**

My country welcomes the tangible improvement in the security situation in Iraq, and feels that stability in that brotherly country depends on the realization of a genuine national reconciliation, discarding sectarianism, and the withdrawal of foreign forces.

We wish to express our deep concern for the situation in Somalia, and my country is of the opinion that the Security Council should expeditiously send forces to that country, in coordination with the African Union, which will protect civilians and humanitarian workers, and provide assistance to the implementation of the Djibouti Convention in order to put an end to the long suffering of the Somali people.

**Thank you Mr. President.**