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UKRAINE

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by

H.E. Mr. Victor Yushchenko,

President of Ukraine,

at the General Debate of the Sixty-Third Session

of the General Assembly of the United Nations

24 September 2008

New York

Mr. President!

Mr. Secretary General!

Excellencies!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is an honor for me to address the world community - the United Nations and its biggest representative body – the General Assembly.

Together with all of you I am grateful to the Macedonian Representative H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim for his effective work as the President of the last session of the General Assembly.

I congratulate H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann from Nicaragua with his election as the President of the sixty-third session.

I wish you, Mr. President, success at this responsible time.

I am confident that we all are overfilled with the same feeling.

The limit of the futility and the general discussions is coming to an end.

We feel the cooling wind in the international relations that complicates and restrains mutual possibilities.

The difference in temperature and pressure leads to a hurricane.

The atmospheric changes in worldwide politics have common features.

The great illusion of power becomes the maximal attenuation of today and the giant swing of ideals and spirits.

The principal challenge that stands before us is the neglect and undermining of the standards of the international law and foreign affairs.

We see the tendencies of the demolition of the general system, the cornerstone of which is the consistency of the international will and respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and firmness of the state boundary.

Ukraine has the right to deliver these words.

We are the co-founders of the UN and co-authors of its Charter.

We are the nation that underwent fatal trials and resumed its commonwealth in legitimate and acknowledged way.

The representatives of dozens of states that share with us the common fate are here in this hall.

Our greatest concern is invoked by the latest events in the Caucasus.

I express the condolences on the tragedy of each human being and each family regardless of blood and the front line – Georgians, Ossetians, and Russians.

Pain does not see the difference between people.

Though the person has the ability and dignity to recognize the truth and hypocrisy, and designed aggression, and manipulation of the public opinion, and the candid support of the separatism.

Ukraine condemns all acts of aggression and the use of force that occurred in the region.

Ukraine vigorously denounces violation of the territorial integrity and inviolability of the Georgian borders and armed annexation of its territory.

Ukraine does not recognize the independence of the self-proclaimed republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Ukraine does not acknowledge and condemns the endeavour of the illegitimate and separatist affirmation of the statehood of any territories.

This position is fundamental for Ukrainian foreign policy.

Deviation from the UN principals, such as the use of force, renewal of the rhetoric of the “cold war” provokes our deep concern.

These processes create the potential threat both for the Ukrainian nationality and other countries of our region.

The problem cannot be solved by means of isolation, self isolation or mutual accusations.

There is only one way out.

With common and good will we are to consolidate on the values and aims contained in the UN Charter and Millennium Declaration.

With the responsibility for peace and security we need to bring to stop the disturbance of the separatist spirits that can turn into misfortune for the instigators themselves.

It is essential to turn down blackmailing and threatening vocabulary.

Ukraine rejects pressure of any kind regarding ways to ensure its own security and to determine membership in collective security structures. Such attempts of infringement are short-sighted and counter-productive.

We call for the strengthening of the Security Council role - the only body which has an exclusive authority in issues of global peace and security.

We need its balanced decisions and effective actions.

Ukraine supports all efforts aimed at peaceful settlement and unblocking of the situation on the South Caucasus and will fully cooperate in this process.

We will continue our peacekeeping activities firmly and vigorously and we will participate in the settlement of the protracted conflicts on the principles of respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, human rights, freedoms and dignity.

The world is waiting for a confident and positive response from the UN.

The world needs renewal of confidence in our collective efforts, the strict adherence to the norms of the international law, to the United Nations Organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Our national agenda is concordant with the main challenges, which the international community is facing.

As a country, which possesses the best black earth soil in the world, Ukraine is going to tangibly contribute to the common work on solving global food crisis.

We plan to consolidate all possible efforts to realization of the effective and just energy policy.

The principles which should be implemented are: mutual benefit, continuous fulfillment of obligations and inadmissibility of any energy pressure.

We reinforce our call for a more active global cooperation in the sphere of ecology.

Ukraine puts forward an initiative to develop a framework binding agreement – World Environmental Constitution and to establish a system of a single structure for ecological protection with relevant authority and mechanisms of work in the UN.

We plan to revitalize efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS and other dangerous diseases. This problem remains highly topical for Ukraine.

Undoubtedly, Ukraine will continue to keep an eye on the whole range of common tasks: from poverty problems to fight against trafficking in human beings, international terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The line we follow is clear: result-oriented work in partnership, constructive and responsible.

Our policy is based on democratic values, open dialogue with all partners of different cultures and unconditional respect for fundamental human rights.

I have the honor to appeal to the world community with the request of solidarity.

This year Ukraine will mark the 75th Anniversary of Great Famine (Holodomor), which took lives of millions of our compatriots.

Our intention is not directed against any people or state.

We neither overstate nor understate our sorrow.

Terror in hunger in Ukraine had a task-oriented character of genocide, which was accompanied by total elimination of national elite, public leadership and priesthood. The goal was to overmaster the nation of many millions because according to the regime there were too many people to displace to Siberia.

It is important that our steps encourage other countries of the former Soviet Union to find the truth.

We share pain of all the people affected – Russians, Belorussians, Kazakhs and dozens of other nations.

We invite you to jointly commemorate each national tragedy and not to tolerate new attempts to create heroic aureole around Stalin and his regime.

We have invaluable examples of mutual understanding with Poland, Hungary and other states. Honest and sincere memories about the past have not split us but have united us.

It is our aspiration that memories of victims to Holodomor and other crimes of totalitarian regimes will prevent the world from repetition of catastrophes.

Mr. President!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I believe in our ability to effectively respond to every challenge the world is facing.

Ukraine is determined to work on it.

We will act as dedicated partners.

Everything is in our hands.

I believe in our power, will and wisdom.

I thank you for attention.