

*Permanent Mission of Romania
to the United Nations
New York*



*Mission permanente de la Roumanie
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
New York*

***DISCOURS DE S.E. M. EMIL BOC
Premier ministre de la Roumanie***

***A l'occasion de la 65ème session de l'Assemblée Générale des
Nations Unies***

- New York, le 24 septembre 2010 –

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***STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. EMIL BOC
Prime Minister of Romania***

***65th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY***

- New York, September 24, 2010 –

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Monsieur le Président,
Monsieur le Secrétaire-général,
Mesdames et messieurs,

Je suis honoré de m'adresser à vous aujourd'hui et de participer, pour la première fois, dans le débat général de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Le moment est d'autant plus signifiant pour nous, car la Roumanie célèbre cette année cinquante-cinq ans depuis qu'elle est devenue membre de l'ONU. Mon pays et ses citoyens ont toujours été les adeptes constants de l'idéal des nations travaillant ensemble pour la paix, la prospérité et la vie meilleure de l'humanité.

Nicolae Titulescu, one of the great Romanians of the twentieth century, and an illustrious diplomat, once said that "*hardship creates the true brotherhood of nations*". He said those words in September 1931, as President of the League of Nations, in a time of crisis.

Today, we are burdened again by immense **challenges**, and have to live up to great **responsibilities** placed upon us by present and future generations. Communities all over the planet face mounting threats, which often interplay. Climate change enhances food and energy insecurity; health and population issues increase migration, while poverty puts pressure on regional security and stability.

At the same time, we are heartened to see an ever increasing commitment of world's nations to act collectively, and share vision and willpower to overcome difficulties.

The **Millennium Development Goals**, which we reviewed a few days ago, are the best example in this respect. The adoption of the MDGs in 2000 was one of the most important future-shaping decisions ever taken in a UN context. The simple fact that nations agreed to common and practical goals to improve human society was and continues to be a defining moment of our times. Despite uneven progress, we are confident that the MDGs can be met by 2015, as our nations think and act together towards their achievement.

Climate change must be our next mobilizing factor. We must not let differences and the enormous complexity of interests define our drive. Negotiations in Cancun and thereafter, building upon the Copenhagen Accord, have to pave the way for the timely adoption of a comprehensive and legally-binding post-Kyoto agreement. Romania, also as president of the **UN Commission for Sustainable Development** will provide its unrestrained support and attention to international efforts meant to eradicate our planet's environmental perils.

Yet, while climate change will hit us ever stronger, a **global recession** has just been sweeping us.

Despite a solid banking system and following almost a decade of sustained economic growth, Romania has not been spared by the economic downturn that affected the entire world.

The crisis revealed the flaws of our national and international financial and economic systems. It has become obvious that the world's financial system is no longer adjusted to the realities of global competition, nor can it handle the misuse of free market principles. Indeed, the system needs to be revised.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sometime development could be achieved quickly with sufficient resources.

But development without **good governance** is less likely to be lasting. A country without equal and dignified citizens can never be wealthy. Romania knows very well from its own past the negative

impact that the lack of genuine democracy, of human rights and freedom has on long-term development prospects.

This is why we must never lose track of a milestone document – the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* - adopted by this very Assembly, 62 years ago, in Paris. The principles, the values, and the generous ideals enshrined in this declaration must remain the laying foundation of our governance efforts.

Romania plays an active role in promoting these fundamental values in our part of Europe and wherever its experience can prove useful and needed.

One must not forget that **democracy** starts with a basic step: free and fair elections. Electoral processes can be improved, including in the most advanced countries. States must be ready to accept that improvements are sometimes needed, and be capable to listen to and understand the calls for change, from within our societies or from outside.

Out-of-country voting is a sensitive and challenging issue, including in my country. Romania works in cooperation with the UN Division for Electoral Assistance, European institutions as well as the Community of Democracies to develop knowledge and codify best practices in the field of out-of-country voting. We hope that the results of a first seminar on this topic hosted by Romania this summer will be multiplied and shared by as many countries and regions.

In our neighboring areas, be it in the Western Balkans, Black Sea area or Eastern Europe, we need to continue searching for ways to improve the freedom of views and expression, of media and elections, and the rule of law. Particularly, I would like to stress the importance Romania attaches to the universal right to education and especially the education in the mother tongue, for persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities, in accordance with international standards and practices.

Romania has played over the past few years a very active role in **combating racism**, radicalism of any sort and xenophobia, be it in international *fora* such as the UN, the European Union, OSCE, the Council of Europe, or on a bilateral basis. At the same time, my country continues to be an active proponent of diversity and multiculturalism, as well as intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations.

In Europe, there has been a lot of talk about the Roma population lately. Issues such as discrimination, social inclusion, but also safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms have been raised. But the European Union has a proven capacity to adapt, to be imaginative and ultimately to solve issues. This capacity stems from an unrelenting pursuit of democracy, rule of law, freedom and fundamental rights. We believe that Europe is the best example of a trans-national democracy and Romania is proud to be part of it.

Mr. President,

Conflict prevention and peace building are priorities in today's world. None of them can be isolated from the efforts to stabilize and reconstruct areas and societies affected by conflicts. To be successfully put into practice, this conceptual framework needs the complement of a consolidated UN operational instrument to which all the member states must contribute to the best of their ability.

It is for this reason that my country has taken a keen interest in and offered substantial contributions to civilian and military missions under UN mandate, and has started to develop dedicated capacities, essentially of civilian nature, in the area of stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Bucharest hosted an international conference to officially open the Romanian Training Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction. The Center will be opened to

international participation and we do hope to develop an enhanced cooperation with the UN Office for Partnerships in this respect.

Today, Romania is honored and proud to have contributed in a consistent way to managing through international cooperation of a number of **conflict situations** and areas of instability. I pay my deepest respect to the men and women of Romania, who have lost their lives, or risk their lives in conflict areas, as well as to all the military, police, gendarmes and civilian personnel serving all over the world to bring peace and security.

We must reaffirm our determination to accomplish the commitments made at the outset of the UN-mandated international mission in **Afghanistan**. While we welcome the results of the latest conferences in London and Kabul and note the progress in ensuring the stability, security and development of this hardly tried nation, we look forward to the moment when the Afghan authorities will be ready to assume the entire spectrum of responsibilities incumbent to them.

We are troubled by the attacks that tried to derail the recent legislative elections in Afghanistan. But let me reiterate in this framework Romania's genuine admiration and steadfast support for the efforts and resolution that the Afghan people and authorities are deploying to build a stable, democratic and prosperous country, against all odds.

Romania firmly supports the continued involvement of the UN and international community in the reconstruction of **Iraq**, and is ready to carry on helping. The success of the sovereign development of Iraq depends on national reconciliation and the development of harmonious relations with its neighbors.

In what regards the issue of **Kosovo**, Romania continues to uphold politically and practically the essential UN mandate there, as well as EULEX and KFOR's roles in ensuring the progress, stability and security of the area.

Romania co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion alongside Serbia and all EU Member States, and would like to commend it as an important achievement. There are still concerns in the region, so the dialogue between parties must continue. We view this dialogue as a necessary step in the foundation of lasting security, stability, prosperity and peace in the Western Balkans.

While respecting the ICJ advisory opinion, Romania considers that this opinion does not examine the core of the issue, i.e. the legality of the creation of an allegedly new state. Romania maintains the view that unilateral secession is not possible under the international law. Accordingly, Romania will keep its position of non-recognition of Kosovo's Unilateral Declaration of Independence.

We continue to be concerned with the **protracted conflicts** in the extended Black Sea area and South Caucasus. While solutions to these conflicts continue to be explored in the agreed formats, they must also be monitored by the larger UN membership, as a way to encourage dialogue and to ensure that developments remain in the boundaries of international law and UN resolutions.

In **Georgia**, which is among Romania's top priorities, the UN must continue to play an important role, along with other actors, such as the EU, which through its Monitoring Mission, contributes immensely to the stability of the area. The talks in Geneva and the constructive participation of all the parties in conflict are paramount for the whole region. Romania maintains that the full implementation of the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission, by deploying it on the entire territory of Georgia, is conducive to a lasting solution.

Furthermore, we support the **Middle East Peace Process** on the basis of the principles and provisions of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and of the Roadmap. We express our hope that the current direct discussions will lead to reaching the aim of two states, living side by side in peace and security. We also hope that Israel and Syria, and Israel and Lebanon could identify the means needed in order to find solutions to improve their respective relations.

Coming to the crucial role of the UN in the area of **disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control**, I would like to underline both the need to strengthen the relevance of international law and its full implementation.

Romania welcomes the new United States – Russian Federation Treaty on nuclear arms reduction and the adoption of the final document of the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty Review Conference in May 2010, which contains concrete actions to advance international cooperation in the field of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and future negotiations for a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty continue to be issues of high interest for my country.

In addition, the recent debates of the first Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade Treaty and the fourth biennial meeting to consider the implementation of the *UN Program of Action on small arms and light weapons* give us hope of successful evolutions in the area of conventional arms.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,

The efforts evoked in my address require a vibrant **multilateralism** with a strong UN at its core. This premise demands in turn improved functional relations between UN and other international organizations with a global or regional vocation.

The roles of the European Union, NATO, the African Union, ASEAN, *la Francophonie* and others in working jointly with the UN in the field and in the headquarters must be supported and reinforced by all member States.

At the same time, the wide-ranging process of realignment and **reform of the UN and its bodies** must keep up the same pace.

In this context, I would like to warmly welcome the creation of the **U.N. Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women** as a significant step of UN reform. We congratulate Madame Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, for her appointment in this important position and wish her every success.

While doing this, I would like to commend Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the entire UN organization for their exceptional dedication and commitment to the Advancement of Women.

The 65th session of the General Assembly leaves us another year in which we must accelerate the Assembly's renewal and to work out historic decisions on the **Security Council reform**.

Romania shares the view that the overarching aim of reforming the Security Council must be a more effective, transparent and representative body and my country will join any pragmatic move in this direction. We strongly believe that the Eastern European Group deserves better representation in the Security Council in any format of enlargement.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by saying that our role and position in this world's affairs is not defined by our greatest achievements, but by how we use these achievements to strengthen the most vulnerable amongst us. This has been and still is the noblest mission and vocation of the United Nations, and of us all.

I thank you.