



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SRGJAN KERIM

UPON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE 62nd SESSION

OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

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Madame President,
Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear Friends,

This is an overwhelming moment for me. I am deeply honored to have been elected as the President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly. It is with my sincerest thanks that I express my appreciation to all member states for their unanimous endorsement. My special acknowledgement goes to the Eastern European Group for its unswerving support.

Allow me to commend President Al Khalifa for her leadership and accomplishments. She has built on the 2005 World Summit, in particular, bolstering the United Nations role in peace and security; strengthening ECOSOC; and, elaborating possible 'building blocks' for negotiations on Security Council reform.

I would like to offer my strong support to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his initiatives and leadership to strengthen the United Nations role in peacekeeping and disarmament; to revitalize the Secretariat; and, for his determination to ensure the United Nations system is managed more coherently and effectively.

Exercising the authority of President of the General Assembly requires investing every effort to live up to the ideals and values of the United Nations. I can assure you that I will discharge my duties in a balanced, considered and forthright manner – with the utmost respect for the dignity of every single member state.

Excellencies,
Dear Friends,

Multilateralism is rooted deeply in the history of mankind. Let me illustrate this point by quoting the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle: *"Now, we may say that the most important subjects about which all men deliberate and deliberating orators harangue, are five in number,..... ways and means, war and peace, the defense of the country, imports and exports, and legislation."*

The world needs more than ever an effective multilateralism. The United Nations must be at the centre of this. For the General Assembly, this means

we must deal as much as possible with substance. Revitalization is much more than procedural improvements.

The major challenges of our times transcend borders: globalization, climate change, terrorism, immigration and sustainable development cannot be entirely solved within national borders, or at the regional level.

The UN has experienced failures. The main causes of this, should however, not always be sought in the deficiencies inherent in the UN system, but at times in the lack of political will of individual member states to cooperate within the multilateral framework.

Excellences,
Chers amis,

Aujourd'hui, parler de gouvernance, c'est bien sur parler de gouvernements, mais aussi de citoyens. L'ère régaliennne de la négociation interétatique pure est révolue dans ce domaine: l'avenir de la planète est l'affaire de tous. Le développement durable doit être une entreprise démocratique, inclusive et participative.

La gouvernance de demain, la gouvernance démocratique, doit associer tous les niveaux décisionnels. Un projet de réforme crédible ne saurait se tromper de génération: la gouvernance internationale de l'environnement se doit d'être à l'image de l'esprit démocratique qui anime la mission de l'Assemblée générale.

Excellencies,
Dear Friends

Scientists and experts have now told us the inconvenient truth about global warming. In this regard, I would like to praise the recent work of the IPCC. Now it's up to politics, business and civil society to take over.

Climate change has implications for every aspect of our daily life; from the environment, health and energy, to economic development, human rights, peace and security, and global governance. While the UNFCCC is the negotiating framework on climate change, in terms of comprehensive action, the General Assembly should be the forum for a concerted action.

The debate must focus on the links between technological innovation, renewable energy and the environment. Together we can tackle climate change, achieve dynamic economic growth and sustainable development.

Excellencies,
Dear Friends,

As we reach the midpoint to 2015 - we must accelerate our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is clear that many will not be reached. Particularly in Africa, achieving the MDGs is not solely a test of our ability to deliver on commitments: it is above all a test of our moral obligations and the ethical values that are enshrined in the UN Charter.

To achieve these and other development goals we should demand more of ourselves as well as of this Organization. If the United Nations is going to make its full contribution and better serve the needs of developing countries greater system-wide coordination and coherence will be necessary.

I see as among other priorities for the 62nd session: reviewing progress to implement the Counter Terrorism Strategy; preparing for the Financing for Development Conference in Doha; the commemorative meeting on Children; and, further concrete steps towards a reformed Security Council – a vital aspect of the United Nations overall reform agenda.

In addition, because there is an increasing urgency to develop a sense of respect for the 'Other', which can provide a basis for mutual understanding, friendship and peace, we must continue to make further progress to promote dialogue among civilizations during the 62nd session.

Excellencies,
Dear Friends,

I see the future and relevance of the UN as an organization that is based on open networks; a network that engages with ideas from civil society and NGO's, business, universities, the media, and the global public.

Whether we like it or not, in some areas we are confronted with widening gaps on issues that are vital to the future relevance of the organization. We all have a responsibility to tirelessly seek out bold compromises based on a greater mutual respect. After all, we all share the common ideal of living in a safer, more prosperous world.

I am aware that compromise is not the most resounding of battle cries. In this regard, I am reminded of the famous German philosopher Immanuel Kant, who once said:

"Out of the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made!"

This is, in my opinion, why that we have to deal with the knots.

In this common endeavor, we are fortunate to have some of the brightest and most able diplomats in the world based here at United Nations in New York. To you, I pledge my conscience, my compassion and my capabilities.

Your today's decision is recognition of my country's commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, including, its contribution to fostering greater stability and cooperation in south-east Europe. In fact, my country has been actively involved with the United Nations since its inception in 1945.

On behalf of my country, the Republic of Macedonia, and myself, I thank you.

Blagodaram.