



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 December 2008

Excellency,

With regard to the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to be held in New York on 10 December 2008, I have the honour to inform you that I have asked the five Co-Facilitators to move forward with consultations on a brief declaration to be adopted by consensus at the commemorative meeting on 10 December 2008, as set out in General Assembly resolution 63/25.

On the basis of extensive consultations, the Co-Facilitators have presented me with the draft of a brief declaration. I trust that the draft represents a concise statement of what unites the United Nations Member States over the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The draft will be presented by the Co-Facilitators to Member States in an open informal consultation on Thursday, 4 December 2008. The open informal will start at 4:00 pm in Conference Room 2.

I am confident that the adoption of the draft by consensus will send a strong signal of the international community on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann', written in a cursive style.

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York

## **Declaration on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

We, the States Members of the United Nations, celebrate today, on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its adoption, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations in the field of human rights. Since its adoption, it has been a source of progressive development of human rights. It has inspired the world and empowered women and men around the globe to assert their inherent dignity and rights without discrimination on any grounds.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls on us to recognize and respect the dignity, freedom and equality of all human beings. We applaud the efforts undertaken by States to promote and protect all human rights of all. We believe in international cooperation and dialogue among peoples and nations on the basis of mutual respect towards this goal.

In an ever-changing world, the Universal Declaration remains a relevant ethical compass that gives us guidance in addressing the challenges we face today. The living, driving force of all human rights unites us in our common goal to eradicate the manifold ills that plague our world. We remain committed to development and the internationally agreed development goals, the fulfillment of which will be instrumental to the enjoyment of human rights.

We deplore that human rights and fundamental freedoms are yet not fully and universally respected in all parts of the world. No place and country can claim to have realized all human rights at all times for all. Human beings continue to be suffering from the neglect and violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. We laud the courage and commitment of those women and men around the world who have devoted their lives to promoting and protecting human rights.

We recognize that we have the moral duty to step up our efforts to prevent, stop and redress all human rights violations. We must give everybody a chance to learn about and better understand all human rights and fundamental freedoms. We must continue to strengthen the human rights pillar of the United Nations of which the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies are an essential part.

Today, we, the States Members of the United Nations, reiterate that we will not shy from the magnitude of this challenge. We reaffirm our commitment towards the full realization of all human rights for all, which are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent, progressive, and mutually reinforcing.