



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 October 2009

Excellency,

The recently concluded General Debate gathered 108 Heads of State and Government from all regions who shared their vision for a better world. I was encouraged to hear a clear call for dialogue, a commitment to multilateralism and a willingness to act together. The greatest challenges facing us today span the entire globe and cannot be solved by one country or one region alone. Harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends is at the core of the United Nations.

The General Debate once again confirmed the universality of the General Assembly, and I am proud to serve as its President. I look forward to working closely with the entire Membership in an open and transparent manner. I also intend to enhance consultations with the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council. I am convinced that periodic meetings between the Presidents of these three principal organs, as well as with the Secretary-General, will strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization.

We are rapidly approaching another juncture in our efforts to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals**. Great insecurity in the global economy, weakened by the current financial and economic crisis, threatens to erode some of the development gains made in previous decades. The 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly offers an important opportunity to assess the progress made so far. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/302, I will promptly initiate consultations on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting with a view to reaching an agreement before the end of 2009.

The global food crisis continues to pose a serious challenge to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Assembly needs to

follow closely the discussion and outcome of the FAO Summit on **Food Security** to be held in Rome in November 2009. The Secretary-General's forthcoming report on "Agricultural Development and Food Security" will also offer Member States an opportunity to discuss this issue.

Climate change is a growing global threat which will have consequences for the world economy, health and safety, food production, peace and security and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. I am encouraged by the readiness expressed by Member States to ensure that the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen is a success. I will work with all of you and the Secretary General to achieve this result.

Recognizing the depth of the current financial and economic crisis, there was broad support for the Outcome of the Conference on the World **Financial and Economic Crisis** and Its Impact on Development, which took place during the 63rd session. Now we must lead the follow-up action. I call upon all Member States, developed and developing, to join efforts in order to address the negative impacts of this crisis.

The General Assembly recently decided to convene a High-Level United Nations Conference on **South-South Cooperation** to be held in Nairobi in December 2009. It is my hope that this Conference will strengthen the role of the United Nations system in boosting South-South and triangular cooperation. I look forward to facilitating consultations among all Member States on a draft outcome.

Excellency,

Security Council reform remains a crucial part of the overall efforts to reform the United Nations. During the 63rd session Member States successfully launched and conducted intergovernmental negotiations. It is imperative that we continue, during the 64th Session, to build on previous positive developments, as we work towards an early reform of the Council. I encourage you to extend your fullest cooperation and support to these negotiations. I am hopeful that progress can be achieved during this session.

The best way to enhance multilateralism is to have a revitalized General Assembly as the main deliberative, policy-making and decision-making

organ of the United Nations. This is a priority expressed by a majority of Member States during the General Debate and I will continue to promote this issue, including through the Ad Hoc Working Group on the **Revitalization of the General Assembly**.

The **Human Rights Council** was established to promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. As we move closer to the mandated five-year review, Member States will be called upon to build on the positive experiences gained by the Council and to support the further development of this important organ. Furthermore the establishment of the **Peacebuilding Commission** was meant to give necessary attention to countries emerging from conflict by marshalling resources and coordinating international assistance. The resolution establishing the Peacebuilding Commission provides for a review after five years. I will work with Member States and the relevant organs to facilitate inclusive and transparent processes for these reviews.

During its 63rd session, the General Assembly considered strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality, governance and funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. In the 64th session I will continue to work with Member States to support intergovernmental consultations on **System-Wide Coherence**, with a view to achieving further substantive action in all areas.

Bearing in mind the importance that the General Assembly has given to the issue of preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting assisting victims of trafficking, I will continue to encourage the discussions among Member States on this issue.

Excellency,

At the outset of General Debate, I suggested that we reflect on “Effective responses to global crises – strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilizations for international peace, security and development”. To support this vision, I will encourage Member States to engage in interactive exchanges on issues relating to development, dialogue among civilizations, disarmament and non-proliferation, and peace and security.

As President, I will ensure the full participation of all Member States in the decision-making process. I intend to work in an inclusive and transparent manner on all the issues before us. I will revert back to you with further details on the issues outlined in this letter. I count on your continued support in addressing the global challenges that we face.

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



Ali Abdussalam Treki

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations