



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

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**STATEMENT BY
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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND
DURING THE 59TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK
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Mr. President
Mr. Secretary-General
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

It is an honour for me to address this Assembly on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Allow me to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Mswati III, the Indlovukazi, the Government and indeed the entire Swazi Nation to all members of the United Nations family.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland congratulates you on your election to the Presidency of this session. We are especially proud that a fellow African has been elected into this demanding position, and we are confident that your diplomatic skills and experience will help you to guide and lead this Assembly towards a successful conclusion of its deliberations.

Peace And Security

Mr. President,

In the aftermath of September 11, the world is understandably preoccupied with the question of security and the war on terror. The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to condemn, in no uncertain terms, terrorism, which constantly threatens world peace, security and stability.

As part of our support for the alliance against terrorism, the government of Swaziland is currently studying all UN Conventions that deal with terrorism to ensure not only adaptation of, but also compliance with such important conventions. The parliament of the

Kingdom of Swaziland will be debating and hopefully pass the long awaited Anti-terrorism Bill in the next session.

Disarmaments: Nuclear and Light Weapons

Mr. President,

Future global stability is also threatened by the continuing spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Our failure so far as an organization is due to inability to agree a time frame suitable to all members for arms control and nuclear disarmament.

The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty are designed as an essential first step towards a world free from the danger that such weapons pose. We clearly need to find a way to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and to prevent the flow of conventional weapons and anti-personnel landmines into the zones of conflicts including terrorists.

The Kingdom of Swaziland therefore calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to implement the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement by establishing, as its highest priority, an Ad Hoc Committee to begin negotiations on a programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, from those countries which have them within a time-bound framework.

Conflicts

Mr. President,

Whilst the possibilities of global conflict have diminished since the end of the cold war era, it is a fact that there has been a corresponding increase in the incidence of internal conflicts and cross-border disturbances arising from a variety of causes including ethnic and religious confrontation.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East inevitably is at the center of the debate on peace and security. The Kingdom of Swaziland pledges the continuation of our support for all initiatives and efforts aimed at resolving the situation and bringing peace and stability in the Middle East. We sincerely believe that the vital role of the United Nations continues to be critical in the resolution of the Middle East conflict.

Africa

Mr. President,

The foundation of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the great strides that we have taken in the past two years are a clear indication that we are moving in the right direction.

We are convinced that with the support of the International Community, in the spirit of true partnership that is demonstrated by mutual respect, we shall succeed in our objectives, initiatives and efforts of raising the living standards of our peoples.

We have placed our trust in NEPAD to be the vehicle for this shift away from the underdevelopment and conflict of the past by addressing the fundamental root causes of our problems.

The on going integration of all our initiatives and programs within the African continent will enable sustainability and true growth in our economies. Together in unity of purpose we shall succeed. In this regard, we welcome the establishment, by the Secretary General of the Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD, which will in our view, help us to be more effective in our efforts to promote Africa's development.

Our united effort is also addressing the conflicts which continue to threaten peace, stability and security in the African continent.

We realize that without these elements, our development goals will continue to elude us, especially because, apart from resources that are wasted on arms, our people can only be productive and be able to trade amongst themselves and with the rest of the world under conditions of peace, stability and security.

The establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union is a landmark in our efforts to manage our conflicts.

In particular, allow me Mr. President, to single out for commendation, the Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his tireless efforts in highlighting and addressing African problems. We look forward to the complete resolution of the disputes in Somalia and in particular Darfur in Sudan.

UN Reform

Mr. President,

The complex challenges facing the world today lend greater significance and urgency to the initiatives for the reform of our Organization. The Kingdom of Swaziland believes that these reforms are essential if the United Nations is to retain the global credibility and authority that are so necessary in its operations.

Our aim must be to transform our Organization into a structure that is truly representative of all our members, and that is transparent and efficient in its operations, while remaining consistent to the purpose and objectives of our founding Charter. We believe that achieving balanced representation in the principal organs of the United Nations should be a priority.

The Security Council in particular requires reform in order to strengthen its legitimacy. Its composition must reflect the plurality and diversity of the membership of the United Nations to recognize the profound geo-political changes in recent history.

However, due to lack of political will on some members to increase the membership of the Security Council, progress in the reform agenda remains unattainable.

Development

Mr. President,

Turning now to the question of development, we believe, the Millennium Declaration marked a turning point in carrying out the mission unanimously entrusted to the United Nations in the area of sustainable development. Indeed, for the first time, Heads of State and Government agreed on specific objectives and targets in the social, economic and educational fields up to the year 2015. In our view, the leaders were correct to put related topics of peace, security, development and poverty eradication as a priority to be addressed because future global stability depends on the ability of national governments to increase the momentum for economic development, and their capacity to improve the delivery of job creation and essential services such as health and education.

Mr. President,

Developing countries have been facing special difficulties in responding to challenges brought by globalization. As a result, many developing countries especially the least developed countries have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, consequently, the benefits of globalization are unevenly distributed. In this regard, the Kingdom of Swaziland believes that in order to maximize the benefits of globalization, the process of integration into the world economy should take into account the level of economic development of each country and the capacity of its institutions and enterprises.

In particular, specific national development potentials and socio-economic circumstances, as well as the different initial conditions relating to size, resource endowments, economic structure and location should be considered. It is also necessary to take into

account the specific development, financial and trade needs of developing countries, in view of the fact that there is no one-size-fits-all trade development strategy.

Mr. President,

Trade

I believe that I speak on behalf of many from the developing world when I say that small economies are not receiving fair treatment in global trade. The proposed removal of preferential terms for our agricultural products and the continuation of subsidies for agricultural products from the developed world is bound to deal a fatal blow on many of our weak economies. We request understanding and appreciation of our situation by our developed partners.

We are asking for a partnership that will take into account our unique situations as developing economies so that we can participate effectively in the global market.

On our part as small economies, we pledge quality and high standards of our products. Our farmers are more than ready to deliver the best for international markets and, it should be noted that agricultural incomes are the cornerstones for the development of our rural communities.

Domestic Issues

For our part in the Kingdom of Swaziland, poverty alleviation remains our number one priority.

66% of our people are living below the internationally recognized poverty line, and yet our classification as a lower middle-income country prevents us from many of the funds and resources that are available to those in different categories. We will be working with the United Nations to ensure that this situation is corrected.

In the meantime, we are focusing our efforts and available resources on programmes that meet the challenges of poverty in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Our National Development Strategy which is the result of direct consultation with all stakeholders has incorporated all eight priority United Nations Millennium Development goals so as to provide us with a blue print for Government action towards achieving the 2022 vision of improving the livelihoods of the people of Swaziland.

Despite all our best efforts, and limited success in many areas, we are restricted in our capacity to meet our objectives due to a multitude of problems that are affecting us simultaneously and that we cannot overcome on our own.

As is the case with all developing countries, we are particularly at risk in times of global economic difficulties and are especially vulnerable to disease and the effects of changing weather patterns.

Mr. President,

HIV/AIDS

Weakening our efforts in meeting our development challenges, however, is the threat posed by multiple health hazards, including malaria and tuberculosis, but especially that of HIV/AIDS. AIDS continues to claim the lives of many of our people.

No sector of development has been spared the ravaging impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic with enormous strain placed on our financial and human resources as we make the required interventions.

We are attacking the enemy on different fronts, with priority on prevention, care and counseling and treatment. Our National Emergency Response Committee, commonly known as NERCHA, has made some successes with regard to home and community based care for those already ill as a result of infection.

Unfortunately, we are currently experiencing an exodus of qualified nurses, who are being employed in the developed world. The exodus has indeed adversely affected our capacity building efforts. This exodus, together with other wider impacts of HIV/AIDS have dealt our economy a heavy blow.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to place the welfare of children as a top priority in our development strategy.

In this regard both the government and the private sector including NGOs, have responded with zeal and determination to the plight of orphans and vulnerable children resulting from the effects of the pandemic. Government is providing bursaries for these children in order to ensure that their education is not disrupted.

The Government and the business community in partnership with NGOs, are providing school feeding schemes in order to supplement the nutritional balance for them.

We are also using our traditional structures to cater for their material and emotional needs, which include the provision of local reporting structures for the prevention of abuse of these vulnerable children. The chiefdoms also provide fields where the communities grow food for the orphans and vulnerable children.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to express the most profound gratitude of the entire Swazi Nation to the United Nations and all our development partners for the support we continue to receive as we face this killer disease.

The supporting we have received from the Global Fund continues to prop and sustain our programs and strategies in our fight against the scourge. We shall forever be grateful to you all.

Governance

The Kingdom of Swaziland is fully committed to the principles of good governance and the rule of law. The nation has just completed debating the Kingdom's draft constitution and this draft will soon be tabled in Parliament for final consideration before the end of this year.

The Republic of China on Taiwan

Mr. President,

For over thirty years, the Kingdom of Swaziland has been enjoying excellent relations with a nation which, despite an outstanding record in international development assistance and while fulfilling the entire requirement for membership in our organization, is nonetheless, excluded from participation in the activities of the United Nations.

I am referring here to the issue of the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan who are denied the right to contribute to the global initiatives undertaken by this august world body.

The Government and people of the Republic of China on Taiwan have made enormous advances in economic, social and political terms and they have shown themselves ready and able to share their experiences and advice with all the nations of the world.

The Kingdom of Swaziland therefore proposes to this Assembly that time has come to revisit this issue so as to ensure the inclusion of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the activities of the United Nations and its associated agencies.

Conclusion

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express the deep gratitude of His Majesty The King, The Indlovukazi, the Government and the whole Swazi nation, to the United Nations and its agencies for the many programmes of assistance undertaken in the Kingdom of Swaziland since our independence.

We believe that the United Nations, as the one truly global organization, remains the only hope for overcoming the many complex challenges facing the world today.

Despite the setbacks and obstacles to achieving our collective aims there can be no doubt that the world can be a more troubled place without the combined efforts of all of us here.

The Kingdom of Swaziland therefore takes great pride in reaffirming her commitment to the principles and ideals contained in the Charter and we ask the ALMIGHTY GOD to watch over and guide us in the challenging time ahead for our Organization.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION.