

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC
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60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ADDRESS BY
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**Mr. President,
Secretary General
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives my great pleasure to address this distinguished forum and share with you the views of my Government of the issues of highest relevance for our Organisation. But first of all, let me express our solidarity and heartfelt condolences for the loss of life and damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in our host country - the United States of America.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to congratulate His Excellency Jan Eliasson of Sweden on his election to the post of President of the 60th UN General Assembly. I am sure that under his able guidance we will make substantial progress in implementing the decisions adopted just a few days ago by the Heads of State. At the same time let me congratulate His Excellency Jean Ping of Gabon, President of the 59th General Assembly, for the job well done. I would also like to commend Secretary-General Kofi Anan for his skillful leadership of the Organisation in what turned out to be a very difficult year.

The High Level Meeting and the Outcome document reaffirmed our commitment to the core values and principles of the UN Charter and to effective multilateralism, and identified areas of our future action. The Summit has also provided us with a unique opportunity to explore new ways forward to adapt the UN to the new realities.

The Organisation was created 60 years ago. However, the vision of its founders to create a more secure, democratic and developed world nowadays needs to be more vigorously pursued. We should be both speakers of words and doers of deeds, as the wise man said. I am happy we are all in agreement that we need a reformed, more effective and more credible UN.

Excellencies,

The High Level Segment made a fair assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the major UN Conferences and Summits in the social, economic, environmental and related fields.

The judgment of the world leaders was both realistic and upbeat: boldly assessing the current and longstanding problems – extreme poverty, hunger, diseases, HIV pandemic, child mortality, environmental degradation, lack of good governance, disregard for human rights and the rule of law, etc.; yet again with strength and will in defining steps and actions to be taken or reinforced in order to meet the 2015 targets, and cautiously optimistic about the deadlines to be met.

Today we live in a world where our people, nations and governments depend on each other. We must recognize that in this interdependent and globalised world all threats are threats to us all. Nobody is immune to them, nor does any state have a single cure.

But how should we proceed? I believe many of us share the view that in fact we already have so many documents, agreed positions, many political commitments, and adopted declarations. Much has been achieved by the United Nations and we are proud of it. My own country has also benefited from the UN, taking advantage of the United Nations engagement in the first ever preventive deployment mission. That was a good example of joint efforts and cooperation.

However, going back to the main question we will find out that we are still behind about certain issues that we have so strongly committed ourselves to. One of the avenues to move forward is implementation and visibility. Not new words I believe. Practice has witnessed many promising UN ideas and projects being sidelined due to inappropriate follow-up and inadequate implementation measures, or simply due to insufficient support and funding by the member states. We should not be trapped in the same pitfall.

The sooner the effects of the implementation of our decisions are visible, the greater the international public support, and bigger the chances to create a better world for us and the generations to come. But we should not shy away from sharing the responsibility with all those who can assist us, with the ones who have the capacities to help promote and implement our goals. There are many positive examples in our recent memory starting from the greater involvement of regional organizations, civilian sector, NGOs, private sector, etc. Let us use them more. We will only benefit.

Mr. President,

On this occasion I will not dwell on details with regard to the processes of UN reform and strengthening of the Organisation. President Crvenkovski elaborated Macedonia's position on these issues here last week.

Macedonia has also aligned itself with the European Union statement. Nevertheless, allow me to say a few words on some current UN reform issues of particular interests to us. Macedonia supports the view that human rights, the rule of law and democracy should be given a prominent place in the UN reform proposals. Freedom from fear could be said to sum up the whole philosophy of human rights, as former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld put it.

It has for long been a strong position of my country that the respect for these principles, coupled with development, is the best conflict prevention measure and a vital precondition for peace and prosperity. For that reason we see a great merit in establishing a Peace Building Commission. We hope to see it up and running as soon as possible as a functional body that would unify in a single structure various components of the UN system in this sphere.

I trust that a balanced gender representation on the Commission will only lead to its better functioning and bring in added value to peace-building.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Human Rights Council must be seen as a powerful tool to regain the UN values and principles, as was originally envisaged by the creation of the United Nations. We welcome the decision to establish the Council and look forward to the start of its work.

We are very satisfied that the concept Responsibility to protect has found its deserving place for the first time in a UN document and welcome its endorsement.

The Democracy Fund is a noble idea which deserves our full creative engagement.

For 60 years now the United Nations has had the key role in standardization and development of international law. In this context we welcome current efforts to agree the text of an international convention for protection and improvement of rights of persons with disabilities. We share firmly the view that our Organization must continue to play the leading role in promoting the implementation of existing standards. But the main responsibility for their implementation rests with the member states. If we want to progress we should be responsible, the way we are before our constituencies at home.

Mr. President,

Terrorism has turned into the plague of modern time. Since the last General Assembly many atrocious terrorist attacks have happened throughout the world.

Our firm commitment to fight terrorism should bring more joint activities and actions.

Our struggle must be based on full respect for human rights because it is the human rights that terrorists are afraid of and seek to undermine. We need further consolidation of the global anti-terrorist coalition and a strengthened cooperation with regional organizations.

The UN is at the core of the activities in the area of counter-terrorism. The Republic of Macedonia supports the elaboration of the UN comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy as outlined by the Secretary General in Madrid. I would like to appeal to the member states to agree on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. This year we have made a significant step by adopting the Convention against Nuclear Terrorism, which we signed on 16th of September. Recent terrorism victims painfully remind us to move forward.

From the very beginning the Republic of Macedonia **has** been a part of the international antiterrorist coalitions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Peace and democracy building in these two countries remain one of the key challenges for the international community and the Iraqis and Afghans themselves. I would like to once again reiterate our support to their efforts to rebuild these countries and create better life for their people.

Natural disasters throughout the world have again brought to the fore the huge importance of the topic. Macedonia supports the increased capacity and role of the UN in the humanitarian response in general and in the coordination effort for setting-up early warning systems. Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction should be given special attention.

Mr. President,

Today Macedonia is a functional multiethnic democracy.

Over the last three years we have launched and carried out a large number of reform projects.

Our hard work has brought us closer to the Euro-Atlantic structures. We have developed genuine partnership with the Union and the Alliance. We expect the EC to positively evaluate our achievements and Macedonia to be granted the status of a candidate at the December 2005 summit. I firmly believe the time has come our European perspective to turn into a European reality. As for NATO, we expect the invitation to join it at the next enlargement Summit.

The Government has recently announced its Economic Program primarily aimed to increase economic growth and reduce unemployment.

At the same time it has intensified the development of a climate favorable to foreign investment and safe business conduct. As a critical complement to economic reforms, Macedonia is also focused on the reforms of the judiciary and the fight against organized crime and corruption. We set a goal that we must do better. The reforms are not easy, but we are firm in our conviction to implement them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regional cooperation has turned into a major characteristic of the foreign policies of all the countries in South Eastern Europe. We have been patiently building the new spirit of cooperation, while at the same time learning the true meaning of developing relations based on mutual trust and solidarity.

This features our bilateral relations, as well as a large number of regional initiatives. Recognizing this reality, the need to cooperate, to build good neighborly relations and mutual

confidence, was not an easy undertaking, but is the only way ahead. We take pride in seeing that the region is moving forward.

The Republic of Macedonia will continue to even more vigorously pursue that kind of policy. There is no alternative to dialogue and all outstanding regional issues should be resolved in that manner.

In closing, Mr. President, I am confident that our deliberations will contribute to better and faster follow-up to the commitments agreed at the High Level Segment. I believe we can come up soon with implementation mechanisms that will give life to what was conceived by our leaders. There were many debates, some of them very contradicting, showing how different we are. But diversity should not prevent us from having a common vision and goals for better future. That is why we are here at the United Nations.

Thank you.