



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

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY
HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III
HEAD OF STATE OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND
AT THE 62ND SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

Mr. President
Mr. Secretary-General
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government
Distinguished Delegates

It is a great pleasure for me to address the 62nd United Nations General Assembly.

Let me begin by extending warm greetings from the Kingdom of Swaziland to the entire United Nations family. First of all let me congratulate you, Your Excellency on your election as President of the 62nd General Assembly. I am confident that your diplomatic expertise and thorough knowledge of international affairs will guarantee the success of this session.

At the same time we would like to pay tribute to your predecessor for her selfless efforts, wisdom and dedication in successfully leading the last session.

It befits this moment that I also extend our congratulations to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, upon his appointment. We trust that you will continue in the footsteps of your predecessors in carrying out the important mission of the United Nations.

We truly believe that your long and distinguished diplomatic career will enable you to lead this organization with the required wisdom, courage and strength. The Kingdom of Swaziland pledges our support to you, as you continue to promote and protect the noble goals of multilateralism.

I am also happy to pay tribute to your immediate predecessor, the former Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan for his outstanding leadership. Like a true African son of the soil he pursued the development agenda with vibrancy, dedication and tireless effort.

His report aptly entitled "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All" is indeed a reflection of the rights and freedoms that the United Nations should continue to uphold.

The role of the UN is to promote peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The UN should continue in shaping situations for the betterment of the lives of all the peoples of the world. If it is to succeed there is a need for the UN to reform the main bodies, namely the revitalization of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Security Council. We met regionally, as countries and consensus decisions were reached and recommendations made and we do look forward to their implementation. As the UN achieves the reforms it is likely to demonstrate meaningful action so that when decisions are taken the UN will be respected by all.

Many of our countries, the world over are facing countless challenges, and we look up to this organization to come up with lasting solutions.

My country, Swaziland is still undertaking development programmes to implement the MDGs that were set by the UN for individual countries to achieve. We have programmes for building a very sound economy so that our people will have good jobs that will make their living standards better.

As part of our human capital development and capacity building programme we are educating and training our people in every aspect to acquire more knowledge and information, and we look up to the well developed countries to share their experiences and ideas.

One area of great concern is that, as we continue to implement our developmental programs we are faced with the challenges of globalization that will affect our preferential markets. As developing countries this will be detrimental to us since companies have big loans to repay which were taken on the basis of better markets. We hope that as the WTO rules come into force there shall be considerations to ensure that all developing countries meet WTO standards. In that way, we shall be able to implement the rules equitably and effectively.

HIV/AIDS and other health problems remain as some of the major challenges that we face as developing nations. We have programs in

place which we are trying to follow in dealing with the situation, but we are unable to meet our targets because of our limited resources.

We have heard of many foundations that have been announced worldwide and we hope to be able to access them. We look forward to those responsible for such foundations to share the information on how to reach these funds as well as technical support.

We acknowledge the contribution made by the Global Fund in the fight against the scourge. My country is one of the beneficiaries of such funding and we have been able to create a lot of comfort for many of our people. We encourage the UN to continue to make an appeal on our behalf for the continued support in eradicating the problem of HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB, just to name a few.

We also recognize the role of various UN agencies working with our communities in the provision of shelter, nutritional support and education, in mitigating the effects of the pandemic. I am pleased to state that our fight is showing some success as recent statistics have shown a decline in the prevalence rate.

We are faced with persistent droughts that set us back as we continue to develop our country and this has been worsened by the wild fires that have recently occurred destroying properties, crops, livestock and our forest industry. The country is doing everything it can to help those that have been affected by this unfortunate situation. We would like to thank the countries and organizations that have come forward to help us during this period of hardship and we do make an appeal to others that support is still needed.

Mr. President, some of the problems I have mentioned that are affecting my country are as a result of climate changes. That is why we believe that the Summit we had is very important and we would like to commend the Secretary-General for convening the High-Level Summit on Climate Change held earlier this week.

A political momentum has been generated and it is our hope that the necessary negotiations on the matter will commence in Bali later this year during the meeting of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Kingdom of Swaziland has developed some sector policies that are climate change-friendly such as our pro – green energy policy, water resources policy, environmental and waste management policy to mention but a few. However, there is need to enhance education, training and public-awareness on adaptation and the promotion of individual and institutional capacity-building in order to manage appropriate technology development and transfer.

We note that there is a general need for favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular from developed countries to developing countries, through supportive measures that promote technology cooperation and that should enable the transfer of necessary technological know-how as well as building up of economic, technical, and managerial capabilities for the efficient use and further development of transferred technology.

We would like to encourage the private sector and in particular the multinational corporations to be responsible enough to practice in the developing world the same environmental and waste management principles that they practice in the developed world.

We would also like to discourage the irresponsible dumping of harmful waste materials in developing countries.

The Kingdom of Swaziland is deeply committed to the UN charter. Moreover, recent events in the world have been living proof that the United Nations is needed now more than ever before.

Sadly, the realities of wars and violence still continue in different parts of the world. Conflicts, tensions and terrorism continue to destroy the social and economic fabric of the era that we are living in.

We welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on the relationship between disarmament and development, in particular its recognition that armed violence and conflict impede realization of the millennium development goals.

In this regard we applaud the United Nations Development Programme for its efforts to prevent armed violence through its

contribution to the disarmament and development agenda by promoting and participating in a number of policy oriented initiatives.

We further commend the efforts of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) for its continuation of the operation of the small arms and light weapons register for Africa for participating states with a view to promoting transparency in the flows of small arms and light weapons. As well as its programme entitled "African Security Sector Reform Programme," which carries the objective of transforming governance within the African security sector.

However, we note with concern the situation in Somalia and Darfur and its far-reaching consequences for regional security. The continued human suffering in this region is unacceptable and we hope that current efforts aimed at improving the situation will not be deprived of the opportunity to succeed. On a more positive note, we welcome the Security Council decision to deploy the joint United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force.

The Middle East continues to face challenges and the accumulation of crises and tensions in the region.

It is therefore, imperative that all parties concerned make an effort to achieve comprehensive and fair, just and durable settlements.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this time to applaud the UN for its role in promoting its declaration on universality. But there is one country that is not benefiting from this principle as it has been excluded from the family of nations.

I am talking about Taiwan, the Kingdom of Swaziland wishes to reiterate its appeal to the United Nations with respect to the question of Taiwan. We note that Taiwan exercised a well founded right in international law to apply for membership to the United Nations. Regrettably the application was rejected without due process.

The government and people of Taiwan have shown their willingness and capacity to contribute actively to global development and peace, through disaster relief, health and development support to many regions.

We continue to support the cause of the over 23 million people of Taiwan who are not represented in the one organization that should be truly global. I would like to challenge all nations to take my appeal seriously as the people of Taiwan anxiously await joining the family of nations.

In conclusion, whilst our world experiences ever-accelerating political, economic and social changes, it is vital that we cooperate with each other in order to tackle and manage these issues. Cordial, balanced and respectful relations between nations based on the principles of the UN charter will enable us all to meet and overcome future challenges of our time.

I thank you