



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
President

ADDRESS

of the President of the Republic of Macedonia,

H.E. Mr. Branko Crvenkovski

at the High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly

New York, September 15, 2005

Mr. President,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Addressing this distinguished forum provides us with the privilege and chance to seize the historic occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signature of the Charter, thus giving a new impetus to the efforts to deal with both old and emerging challenges and threats.

Today we have gathered here to make a fair assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and of the major UN Conferences and Summits in the social, economic, environmental and related fields. At the same time, in order to meet the targets by 2015, we will be forward looking in defining steps and actions to be taken or reinforced in order to achieve what we set as our priorities 5 years ago.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We agreed in Monterrey that development is our shared responsibility and requires our common endeavor. We welcome additional proposals for innovative sources of financing and the recent G8 ministers of finance agreement on multilateral debt relief. In the context of MDGs implementation, we all agree that special needs of Sub-Saharan Africa must be recognized as it is lagging far behind the rest of the world. The pressing HIV pandemic requires special attention, coordinated and continuing international action and additional funding.

The Republic of Macedonia is strongly committed to the full implementation of the MDGs on national level. In June 2005, supported by the UNDP, we have published the report on the implementation of the MDGs on national level. The report indicates that significant progress has been achieved in regard to a number of targets. At the same time the long transition process resulted in intensive changes in economic and social life and led to impoverishment of a large portion of the population. The same report confirmed once more that a multidimensional approach is needed to fight poverty.

Mr. President,

As the Secretary General rightly stresses in his report, we perceive different threats, and the collective security today depends on accepting that the threats which each region of the world perceives as most urgent are in fact urgent for all.

The fight against international terrorism remains among our top priorities. We strongly support the comprehensive UN counter terrorism strategy and we feel encouraged by the recent adoption of the Convention against Nuclear Terrorism.

We support the efforts aimed at strengthening the existing non-proliferation and verification regimes, as well as new initiatives in this field such as Global Threat Reduction Initiative. Coming from the region affected by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, we strongly support full implementation of the UN Program of Action to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Macedonia remains dedicated to its commitment for further democratic and economic development in compliance with our uppermost national priorities — full fledged membership in EU and NATO. We recognize the importance of good-neighborly relations, consequently we promote regional cooperation in order to achieve sustainable peace and stability in South and Eastern Europe. In this regard, we believe that the last open issue on the Balkans, the final status of Kosovo, will be resolved, among Belgrade, Prishtina and the international community, meeting the requirements of the UN. The final solution should bring lasting peace, democracy and security in the region.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia gives strong support to the comprehensive UN reform the aim of which is to adapt the Organization to the changing realities and strengthen its capacity to cope with the threats and challenges of the 21st century.

We welcome the proposal for enhancing the UN peace-building capacity by establishing the Peace Building Commission to bridge the institutional gap between the end of conflict and resumption of sustainable development, as well as the proposal to enhance the organization's capacity for promotion and protection of human rights by establishing of a standing Human Rights Council. We also believe that the Democracy Fund will contribute to the promotion of democracy worldwide.

The reform of the Security Council remains an essential part of the overall UN reform process, with the aim to fit the Council to the new realities and to make it more representative and more efficient in maintaining international peace and security.

We also stress the importance of strengthening coherence and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and arrangements, associating the UN activities to the civil society, NGOs and the private sector.

In closing, Mr. President, I am confident that our deliberations will result in the adoption of an action-oriented Outcome Document that will reflect our strong commitment to making a better World for us and for the generations to come. I strongly believe that the effects of the implementation of our decisions will be visible shortly.

I thank you.