

NEW ZEALAND MISSION to the UNITED NATIONS



Te Mangai o Aotearoa

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HIGH LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT BY
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NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2005

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr President

As member states we stand together at the threshold of a new era in the evolution of the United Nations. If we are to honour and fulfil the vision of 1945, we have to renew our organization.

The outcome document we have agreed will give impetus to this renewal. We would have liked a more ambitious result. But in New Zealand's view we have a solid basis from which to move forward.

In the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus, a sensible balance has been struck between the shared responsibilities of developed and developing countries, to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable development.

New Zealand is making its contribution to the global partnership for development. This year we increased our ODA by 23%. We welcome recognition in the agreed document of the special needs of small island developing states.

The spread of HIV/AIDS calls for increased commitment through our development programmes. New Zealand will continue to advocate for the strengthening of women's equality and empowerment, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are critical to the achievement of the MDGs.

This Summit sets for us all a programme of work which we shall achieve only with real commitment and a will to succeed. New Zealand welcomes the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission. Our challenge is to have it up and running by the end of the year, and able to deliver practical help.

At this critical moment in the history of our organization, member states have agreed that we share a responsibility to protect populations from the most horrific of crimes. The principle of non-intervention cannot be used to shield genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

We must seize this opportunity to show that we can confront terrorism. We must demonstrate that the General Assembly can deliver results by concluding the comprehensive terrorism convention. We must agree on the Secretary-General's counter-terrorism strategy.

New Zealand welcomes the emphasis on human rights in the outcome document. We are particularly pleased that the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is to be doubled and her office strengthened.

Undoubtedly it is an achievement that agreement in principle has been reached on a new Human Rights Council. But I shall not hide New Zealand's disappointment that in this part of our document we did not go further. Over the

next weeks and months, we must maintain the momentum and meet our commitment to establish a Council during the sixtieth UNGA.

New Zealand is committed to renewed efforts to agree on an expanded membership of the Security Council, to make it more representative of 21st century realities, as well as to further improve working methods and practices. We believe that an expanded Security Council must include Japan.

We have endorsed substantial Secretariat and management reform. These are essential elements of the renewal we are seeking.

But for all that is positive in the outcome document, there are gaps where divisions were too deep to be bridged. Some are serious.

The impossibility of agreeing on language on disarmament and non-proliferation is of deep concern to New Zealand, and judging by the statements in this chamber over the last two days, also to many other countries. This gives a misleading message and one we must strive to correct, given the urgency of addressing this aspect of international peace and security.

Mr President, whatever its shortcomings, this week's agreement presents us with an opportunity to breathe new life into our United Nations. To make it work better for us all — for it belongs to us all. It is member states who must carry the responsibility for taking this organization forward.

We cannot afford to fail. Effective multilateralism is the foundation stone of global order and the rule of law.
