

*Permanent Mission of Romania
to the United Nations
New York.*



*Mission permanente de la Roumanie
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
New York.*

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Ion Iliescu,

President of Romania

**at the General Debate of the 59th Session
of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

- New York, September 22nd, 2004 -

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As proof of its awareness of the role these measures could play for a more pragmatic approach of the challenges and threats to international peace and security, in the affirmation of a more effective and flexible multilateralism, Romania organized at the Security Council, on 20 July 2004, a debate meant to clarify the concepts related to the cooperation between the UN and the regional organizations within the stabilization processes.

My country intends to carry on its activity in this direction and to put in the limelight the results of this debate, by paying a special attention to this subject throughout its mandate, until the end of 2005.

The necessity to speed up the reform of the United Nations is more urgent than ever. The series of challenges, more or less new, that the organization has to face during the XXIst century, make its reform a priority, in order to adapt to the present realities its structures and working methods.

The terms of reference continue to be efficiency, adaptability and progress. Romania looks forward to the recommendations of the Secretary General, on the report of the outstanding personalities, so as to embrace, together with other States, the collective effort that cannot afford delay.

We hope that the 60th anniversary of the organization will mark a significant progress of the process of adapting the UN to the new challenges, especially the Security Council, the essential body of the management of world peace and stability. Our relation to this structure, as a nonpermanent member, increases our conviction that a new configuration, meant to closely reflect the present realities, by increasing the number of permanent and nonpermanent seats, will consolidate the representative profile of the Security Council, and therefore, its authority and efficiency.

Romania fully supports the reform of the Security Council, both from the perspective of improving the working methods and the transparency, and from the perspective of expanding and adjusting the decision-making mechanisms.

The well-known stand of my country in this respect is founded on the necessity of adapting the UN to the new international realities, on the need of democratization and balanced geographical representation within the Council, in order to increase its legitimacy and to recognize the contribution of each state to the achievement of the SC goals and to the UN institutional missions.

Now, I cannot ignore another aspect of our contemporary world. Both a source of challenges and a most generous framework for opportunities - the phenomenon of globalization is unavoidable and affects us all. Given its very nature, the UN is ideally placed to manage the phenomenon, particularly by correcting its consequences.

In this context, Romania fully embraces the "Global Compact", initiative of our Secretary General, that needs support and strengthening. This initiative proves to be a valuable try at synchronizing the actions of the private sector, in general, and of the influential transnational companies, in particular, as well as a commitment of these companies to the process of achieving important goals of the world organization, such as the standards of work, human rights, fight against corruption, protection of the environment. Romania pays a special attention to these aspects, many of which are to be found on its agenda, be it global, European or internal.

We, all member States, must promote regional and transcontinental integration, as vehicles and instruments of a "harnessed" globalization. In this case, the EU stands as a success story, since it acts not only as a vector of economic integration, but also of democratic values and human rights.

We should pay more attention to the necessity to increase the interaction, at a conceptual and action level, between the system of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. This would be a step meant to identify ways to attenuate the consequences of the great financial crises, as well to increase the transparency of the resource flows going to and coming from the beneficiary countries.

The UN has to try to find ways meant to adjust the rules of the world market, in order to diminish, on a medium and long term, the big gaps that exist between the rich countries and the poor ones.

Another priority of our actions towards a "harnessed" globalization must be represented by the efforts of enhancing the coordination of strategies set up by the agencies and the specialized institutions of the UN system in the process of diffusion of the information technology, for a better price. We believe that we need to show more determination when we try to decrease the gaps in this field, so as to guarantee an evolution from marginalization to a catalyst of knowledge based development.

Allow me to go further to another essential factor for a better future, underlined also in the introductory speech of the Secretary General — Kofi Annan — the rule of law. We all know that in a community of almost 200 States, respect for norms and principles of the international law stands for a sine qua non condition for a harmonious coexistence. The validity of the principles of the UN Charter not only withstood the proof of time, but it was also reaffirmed by a whole new network of international agreements that leads to compulsory standards and norms of action to which States voluntarily acceded, and mechanisms of peaceful settlements of disputes and of monitoring commitments.

Abiding by these commitments proves essential, because they generate predictability and confidence in international relations.

As a proof of our faith in the international law system, Romania appealed this year, for the first time, to the International Court of Justice, the main judicial body of the

UN, for a problem related to the maritime delimitation. Romania also appealed to the services of an Investigation Commission to solve the case of infrastructure works with cross-border impact in the Danube Delta, on the Bistroe Channel. Our appeal is for a close collaboration for the protection of a unique and delicate place, a UNESCO world heritage site, so as future generations to have the possibility to enjoy this extraordinary ecosystem.

The protection of environment is but one of Romania's priorities. Our actions in the direction of an effective multilateralism also imply involvement in other major dossiers on the UN agenda. Romania has promptly and substantially joined the international efforts for the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq, thus being consistent to its traditional participation in the UN peace operations and assistance in the post-conflict phase.

I take this opportunity to address, once more, one of the crucial benchmarks for the stabilization and progress towards democracy in these two countries, that is the organization of elections — a most important democratic exercise where the support coming from an respected and skilled organization, as well as from the international community, proves indispensable. It is a fundamental prerequisite for the strengthening of the political and economic reconstruction of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The global vocation and aspirations of my country are closely related to its European destiny, Therefore, the focus of the Romanian diplomacy is oriented towards the democratic stabilization of the neighboring regions and their functional connection to a united Europe. This region has for too long been affected by wars and all kinds of often acute tensions. Under these circumstances, Romania can only support, alongside the entire Europe, a democratic boost, an economic development and a long-lasting stabilization of the countries in the region.

At the same time, Romania is ready to contribute to the stability and development of all countries in the Black Sea region, so as to turn this strategic area, deeply connected to other regions with a huge potential: the Mediterranean Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, into a cooperation and security zone.

I cannot end without making a brief reference to another theme to which Romania attaches a particular importance. My country is definitely for a concerted action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In an international context, which is often volatile and defined by growing complexity and increased interdependence, we cannot ignore the necessity of immediate action, by using the means offered by our global organization, especially the 1540 Committee of the Security Council.

Thank you for your attention.