
**Permanent Mission of the
Kingdom of Bahrain to the U.N.
New York**



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STATEMENT

By

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Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs

of the Kingdom of Bahrain

to the

Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

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In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

Mr. Chairman,

I have the pleasure to congratulate you on your election as President of the General Assembly in its historic 60th Session, and to express our confidence in your ability to carry the meeting to a successful conclusion. I also appreciate the contribution of the Foreign Minister of Gabon during the 59th Session of the General Assembly. I commend the efforts of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, which have sought to make significant changes to this Organisation so as to make it better able to meet the demands of the Twenty-First Century, as envisaged in his report and recommendations before this Session.

Mr. Chairman,

The historical context of the creation of our recent international order, with its mechanisms and establishments, relates to another world, different from that of today. That world preceded both the Cold War, and subsequent events and developments in the regional and international arenas. Our Session this year is, in essence, an important moment in the progress of international collective efforts that prompt us today to seek a new vision and to find systems better developed in both their means and structures, to address contemporary dangers and threats, as well as rapid world changes.

The world today is seeing many changes due to interrelationship between states, and taking into account the facts, balances and dangers around the world. As a result, we are obliged to revisit the international collective security system, to thoroughly study the aims of the United Nations structures and recent interpretations of world events, and to provide creative initiatives to address these matters in the Twenty-First Century spirit of modernity. His Highness Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, underlined this issue in his address on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, before the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on 15 September, 2005.

These might be the urgent needs that prompted the Secretary-General to crystallize all this in a series of initiatives and meetings at the outset of the Twenty-First Century, by announcing suggestions for the Millennium, and

its Development Goals. In his important report before this Session *In Larger Freedom*, the Secretary-General has explained his vision in a comprehensive and detailed manner, along with the bases and aims of the work of the international order of today, based on which we can move towards a new, modern, capable and democratic system to achieve three important types of freedom, namely freedom to live in dignity and humanity, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. This comprehensive vision of the Secretary-General on issues of international security, development and human rights deserves our encouragement, and deep and conscious study, to reach a broad international consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

The dangerous escalation today in the nature of terrorism, and a culture derived from hatred and stubbornness, are the most serious dangers threatening the international community everywhere. They require us to develop a comprehensive strategy that interrupts the process of terrorism and the culture of death and violence which terrorism advocates. This also re-emphasises the common responsibility of states and societies to find a means to address the causes and roots of terrorism.

We must state that an effective counter-terrorism strategy has to balance between the needs of human security and adherence to international human rights treaties, and has to close loopholes in the articles of treaties dealing with the nature of terrorism.

Within this context, the Kingdom of Bahrain has continued its national and Gulf efforts with its partner GCC countries to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism at the Middle East and North Africa levels, and at the level of practical and political cooperation. In this regard, the Kingdom of Bahrain endorses the proposals of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdulla Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to establish an international centre to fight terrorism. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also submitted its instruments of accession to the UN Secretariat in New York for many conventions relating to fighting terrorism, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 of 2001.

Mr. Chairman,

The greatest security challenge in the Middle East is not confined to terrorism and the ending of violence, it also includes the absence of a just and comprehensive peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is an ongoing source of confrontation and threat to stability, and which brings desperation to legitimate hopes for a dignified life and regional economic progress.

We must not forget that the year 2005 has opened a path that might lead to an opportunity for peace, through positive internal developments on the Palestinian side, and the Arab and international support for its new leadership of President Mahmood Abbas and his moves towards achieving peace, reducing tension, and promoting democracy.

We welcome the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and hope that this withdrawal will be a significant step towards a just and comprehensive peace in the area, and that this withdrawal should be a part of the Roadmap plan.

The achievement of security, stability and peace in the Middle East requires an end to the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories and the full implementation of all United Nations resolutions in this regard, as reconfirmed by the Arab initiative adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002, and reaffirmed once again by the latest Arab Summit held this year in Algeria. A just and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved except through the end of Israeli occupation of Arab territories since 1967, including the Golan Heights and Lebanese lands, the return of Palestinian refugees and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of the democratic choice of the Iraqi people in the elections in January this year, and the appointment of the transitional government, and in spite of the steps taken during the political process and the preparation of the draft constitution. In spite of all this, the situation in Iraq today remains very delicate and sensitive, and represents a challenge to internal and regional security, which affects not only the security of Iraq and the region, but also its unity, its territorial integrity and the consensus of its people.

Overcoming this dilemma can only be achieved through a strong unanimous historical national consensus on Iraq's territorial integrity and ethnic diversity, a comprehensive political plan and participation in shaping the future of Iraq. This national consensus is alone a guarantee for Iraq to overcome its current predicament and to move from this difficult ordeal, to an era of stability, security and peace.

In this context, the Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms its support for the Iraqi people, and calls upon all to continue regional and international support to Iraq to allow it to overcome its current obstacles and fulfil its responsibilities towards its people and the Arab Nation.

Mr. Chairman,

The peaceful settlement of the long dispute, either through negotiations or international arbitration, between the brotherly United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran, under its new leadership, regarding the three Emirate islands, will enable the Gulf to divert its efforts and natural resources to face the challenges of development, security, peace and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

On the road of development and progress, the Kingdom of Bahrain follows a policy of openness, reform and participation and democracy enhancement, moving towards social, cultural and civil modernisation that goes hand-in-hand with our deep-rooted traditions and values.

Within the context of its efforts to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals, the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken significant steps to enable women to assume positions of leadership in different walks of life, by launching a new national strategy to promote Bahraini women. It has, therefore, put forward its candidature for the Presidency of the General Assembly during the forthcoming 61st session. For this task, it has selected a capable person who represents Bahraini women, and who demonstrates experience, wisdom and diplomacy. We hope that this nomination will receive wide consensus among United Nations members.

Reaffirming its regional and international economic, financial and banking status, and as part of its efforts to attract greater investment and capital, create employment opportunities for its citizens and strengthen the national economy, the Kingdom of Bahrain has embarked on launching many economic and investment projects which will strengthen and enhance the economic and trade position of Bahrain on the regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Efforts and initiatives have continued over many decades to achieve a collective security system that will free humanity from the dangers of destruction and annihilation by prohibiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, the comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban treaty has not achieved its goals despite the accession of all Arab countries and the majority of the countries of the world. In this regard, we call upon the international community to make both the Middle-East and the Gulf free of Nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that concerted efforts will continue among member states so as to reach a consensus on the United Nations reform.

We expect that the framework of the proposed expansion of the Security Council will reflect the consensus of UN member states, with a clear and practical picture, and will take into account the interests and expectations of Arab nations, the features of which deeply affect politics, economy, peace and security in the world.

The recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in his report *In Larger Freedom* are comprehensive views and aspirations, not only for the Security Council responsible for international peace and security, but also for establishing the basis for the entire international system.

We all look forward, during this session, to the opening of historic negotiations on the reforms of United Nations organs as well as its working methods. The kingdom of Bahrain supports the UN reform initiative and

believes in the necessity of continued negotiations among UN member states in order to reach the results that we all aspire to.

Mr. Chairman,

The world today, this post-Cold-War world, is not yet free of the scourge of war, and its people are still unable to avoid the consequences of terrorism and violence.

Today, we urgently need a more modern, stronger, revived and more credible Organisation, that will bring all nations together and balance their interests, build peace and security, implement justice and law, oblige all to abide by the rules, articles and mechanisms of the United Nations Charter and international legal resolutions, meet the changes of the Twenty-First Century and successfully answer its challenges.

We look forward to a reformed United Nations which we hope will come to light soon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.