



SLOVENIA

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Statement by

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**AT THE 60TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

GENERAL DEBATE

**THE FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
IN SEPTEMBER 2005**

New York, 19 September 2005

Mr President,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on the election as President of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. I would like to express to you full support of the Republic of Slovenia in discharging this important and responsible task. I wish to you, Mr President, to have a lot of vision, courage and firm attitude in chairing the General Assembly in this year of jubilee.

At the same time, I would like to express sincere recognition and gratitude to the endeavours of your predecessor, Mr Jean Ping, President of the 59th General Assembly session. His determined approach, his insight in the current issues of the modern world and his enduring courage allowed him to steer the General Assembly in its 60th year, a year that promises to be of greatest significance for the future of the Organisation.

We have assembled here, Mr President, to consider – together and in good faith – how we can respond to the challenges of the modern time and how our Organisation can be adapted to the needs of the 21st century. We are here to act on the basis of our best understanding, believing in the achievements of a creative development for the well-being of people of the modern world, if I may quote your illustrious compatriot Dag Hammarskjöld.

The Summit of Heads of State or Government has provided us with the platform for further action, based on the understanding of the modern world, its challenges and threats and on our mutual and complex interdependence. To be frank, Slovenia would prefer a more ambitious platform, offering clearer solutions about how to cope with the challenges and threats facing the globalized world. After two years of preparations and a series of positive reports by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel and the Millennium Project, we did, indeed, hope for conclusions that are more resolute. Above all, Slovenia expected more in relation with the Human Rights Council and the general understanding of challenges connected with terrorism. We do, nevertheless, welcome the Outcome Document of the Summit as an important step towards an effective reform of the Organisation and a response to the challenges of the 21st century. We see the Outcome Document as the beginning of a proper reform process.

Mr President,

The Outcome Document contains numerous meaningful and useful ideas, but many of those will need to be better or further defined. The purpose of the Outcome Document was to enhance efficiency and consolidate the UN's mission in the modern world. The reform of the Organisation is of the utmost importance and has been initiated at the right time. This is a time of significant changes in several international organisations and institutions. You are certainly aware that the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe are undergoing transformation as well. Such changes, of course, are difficult. We encounter obstacles, such as the rejection of the European Constitutional Treaty at two referenda.

The efficiency of the UN "machinery" and its mission should also be improved by the Human Rights Council and the fight against terrorism. There were many discussions and diverging views on these two items of the Outcome Document. However, we cannot be successful if we have difficulties with the very definition of terrorism or with the Human Rights Council. There is quite some hesitation in the Outcome Document in this respect. As regards the former, the Document talks about dialogue and understanding among civilizations. As far as the Human Rights Council is concerned, the Outcome Document refers to further open negotiations with the aim of establishing its mandate, working methods etc.

In today's world, change and certainty are tightly connected and even interdependent. The necessary means to attain a (paradoxical) balance between them include values, rules, laws and the institutions of human dignity, equality and democracy; in brief: *human rights*.

Development issues

It is a fact that we live in a globalized and interdependent world, in which we all bear the responsibility for our security. It is very significant that the Outcome Document states that there is no development without security and no security without development, and that both development and security highly depend on the respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Many efforts have been made to change the factors that cause suffering in the world. UN member States must continuously support and fulfil the Millennium Development Goals. It is of great importance that we assume the obligation to reduce poverty and spread the message that want is not a self-evident fate of millions of people around the world.

Twenty-five EU member States committed themselves to the goal of allocating 0.7% of GDP for official development aid by 2015. In this context, Slovenia, as one of the 10 new EU members and a new donor, committed itself to attain 0.33% of GDP as its contribution to development aid. We welcome the long-term commitments and the sense of responsibility of all countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals.

Security and fight against terrorism

We are continuously surprised at the changing nature of threats facing each and every country. The concept of security includes state security and the security of the individual; this is why it is important to effectively address different kinds of issues in particular non-proliferation and disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the problem of proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons, which affects numerous countries. We are therefore rather disappointed that the Outcome Document does not include any provisions about non-proliferation and disarmament and we expect that they will continue to be addressed after the Summit.

The dramatic increase in terrorist acts has become a major threat in the recent years. Despite the adoption of 13 international conventions on the fight against terrorism, the international community has still not reached a common position on the definition of this evil. Therefore, we welcome Secretary-General's appeal to adopt a

comprehensive convention on the suppression of international terrorism, including the definition of terrorism.

Terrorist attacks on innocent people are in flagrant contradiction with the value systems of modern countries, and above all with human rights, as conceptualized and proclaimed by international conventions and declarations. Terrorist attacks infringe on human rights as the fundament of modern societies; they represent an assault on the very essence of these societies, and thus negate their very modernity. This negation is connected with the complex and paradoxical nature of the concept of modernity, and it seems that this complex and paradoxical nature represents the fundamental frustration for terrorists and compels them towards their radical deeds. Terrorism cannot put up with the complex and paradoxical character of modern societies.

Measures in the fight against terrorism are directed against terrorists, that by their acts deny and reject freedoms and rights as the fundamental value of modern societies. To come to an elucidation of terrorists' attitudes and the meaning of terrorism, we should, of course, be able to define it. The definition of terrorism would provide clarity and thus also a better insurance policy for human rights. The more successful we are in the fight against terrorism, the better human rights will be protected. Indulgence towards terrorism or its justification undermines human rights. This does not mean, however, that we can disrespect human rights in our fight against terrorism. Universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including in the fight against terrorism, will guarantee the success of such fight and preserve democratic and free principles of our societies, which are being targeted by terrorists.

Human rights, the rule of law and the "Responsibility to Protect"

For Slovenia, the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law are of highest priority, and we are therefore pleased to see that these issues have found a place in the Outcome Document.

Slovenia welcomes the confirmation of the "Responsibility to Protect". In this way, world leaders made a conceptual breakthrough, towards prevention of future tragedies of the kind of Srebrenica, Rwanda or Darfur. It is for the first time that we together recognised our national and collective responsibility to act in cases of genocide and ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Slovenia considers the Responsibility to Protect concept as an integral part of national sovereignty for the protection of its people against these atrocities. We further understand this responsibility also as an onus on the Security Council, whereby the use of a veto is fundamentally incompatible with the very idea of the Responsibility to Protect.

We further welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund, to which Slovenia intends to contribute as well. We also strongly support the proposed strengthened role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The strengthened role of the Office, financed better from the UN regular budget, is good news for the actual implementation of human rights on the ground.

The level of agreement on the Human Rights Council is a disappointment. Numerous countries wanted and expected more. Even though in the preparatory phase we did elaborate some good proposals as to its mandate and structure, we are for the time being left without the necessary vision of a new Council. We (Slovenia) wish for a *standing* Council, which would preferably be the *principal* UN body, capable of dealing with *all* human rights in *all* countries and at *all* times. We wish for a Council that could better address rights and freedoms without double standards. We wish for a Council that could convene and act every time there are gross or massive violations of human rights. We wish for a Council, which would be capable of addressing recommendations to other parts of the United Nations system, so that human rights would effectively be integrated in all areas of the Organisation. Finally, we wish for a Council that would reflect the diversity of the modern world and give proper voice to the civil society, through non-governmental organisations. In the course of the 60th session of the General Assembly, Slovenia will continue to actively support the establishment of a strong and efficient new Human Rights Council.

I have already mentioned the dialogue of civilisations. Our dialogue should be premised on our universal fundamental values. Any differentiation between “us” and “them” is unacceptable. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the emanation of our common fundamental values. They are the best answer to guarantee a dignified life in this globalized, rapid and increasingly unsafe world. On the basis of our traditions and histories, and through the creative diversity each and every individual should have the opportunity to know and realize his/her rights and freedoms. Such would be the best and long-term basis for peace and development. Human rights education and learning are a prerequisite for this, and we are thrilled to see that the Outcome Document takes proper note of it.

As a member state of the Human Security Network we also wish to express our satisfaction over the fact that human security has found its place in the Outcome Document and that we will continue to discuss it further within the General Assembly.

Institutional reform of the Organisation

There is no doubt about the necessity of institutional reform of the UN, its General Assembly, the Secretariat, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council – a reform that will lead to a more efficient operation of the entire system. Slovenia also welcomes the decision on the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission, which is to conduct the post-conflict activities of the international community; this area is evidently among the most salient deficiencies in the international community's endeavours.

We expect that in the course of the 60th session a consensus will be reached on concrete forms of the UN institutional reform.

Mr President,

Cooperation between the UN and regional organisations deserves a priority focus in the future. The experience from various geographic environments and conditions have proven that synergetic cooperation between the UN and regional organisations

can be very effective; there are good examples of this in South Eastern Europe, Africa and elsewhere.

In my capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, I would like to express the desire that a binding foundation for permanent cooperation between the UN and this important regional organisation be defined as soon as possible.

This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, with which the OSCE was established. Thirty years ago, the integration of East and West began. Today, our main duty is to integrate civilisations. One of the major developments should become the dialogue between civilisations. It may well be that this chapter represents the supreme importance of our Outcome Document.

Thank you, Mr President.