



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland  
to the United Nations**

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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Phesheya M. Dlamini  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

at the

General Debate of the  
60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

23 September 2005  
New York

Mr. President  
Mr. Secretary General  
Distinguished Delegates

It is an honor and privilege for me to present my country's statement as commanded by His Majesty King Mswati III.

I am happy to convey the greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and the entire Swazi Nation.

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your election as President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Kingdom of Swaziland is confident that your diplomatic skills and vast experience in international affairs will guide the work of the General Assembly to a successful conclusion as it faces the daunting task of reform and change.

We wish also to recognize the work done by your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gabon who ably steered the last session to set the stage for "change in the year 2005"

He hands over the helm of this body at a crucial time when we have to take concrete and firm action to effect such change: we wish him well and every success in his future endeavours.

Mr. President

This is a momentous occasion as we are celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations at a time when we are charting and adopting clear directions for adapting this organization to its effective role in the new century. We have also taken on the responsibility and challenge to ensure that the United Nations of the twenty-first century can deliver real improvements in the life of the peoples of the world.

We have assessed its contributions to world peace, economic and social development and the observance of human rights, and we are reaffirming our faith in the organization and we continue to agree to live up to the objectives of the Charter, through the strengthening and revitalization of the United Nations system.

The last five years have seen a mixed bag of successes, trials and tribulations for the International Community which has resonated right across the globe. The scale of some of these man-made problems and natural disasters such as terrorism, wars, the Tsunami, and Hurricane Katrina were unprecedented.

It is through some of these incidents that, for the first time in its existence, the UN has been challenged in its pivotal role of maintaining global peace, security and safety. Fortunately, the UN has remained undeterred, particularly due to the astute leadership of our Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan whose diplomatic skills and uniting effort,

tested as they have been, managed to keep the organization focused, as it deals with critical issues confronting the international community today.

Mr. President

It is against this background that the Kingdom of Swaziland believes that this session presents an opportunity for us to advance further the reform process so that the organization is not only efficient and effective, but can also ensure that the programs of action adopted at past Global Conferences are fully implemented.

We therefore, welcome the decisions taken at the recently concluded Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit. These will indeed set us on course to make significant impact on each and every country's socio-political and economic development.

Mr. President

Our quest for a safer and secure world continues to be challenged.

The recent spate of terrorist bombings in different parts of the world is a clear indication that we have to fight this growing scourge with urgency. The adoption of the Thirteen Conventions covering different aspects of terrorism demonstrate our unwavering commitment to this course.

The Kingdom of Swaziland supports the Secretary-General's call for the drafting of a comprehensive instrument that will enable us to collectively and effectively fight terrorism.

Tensions and conflicts within and between States, which are detrimental to development and productivity continue to rage in many parts of the world. These conflicts are fuelled by the ever-growing illicit trade in small arms and weapons, which cause the death and displacement of thousands of innocent people every year.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Swaziland supports the UN efforts to enhance international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We further call for the stern action, in the same manner as we would deal with drug producers, to be taken against the mass production of such arms and weapons.

Mr. President

In this age of globalization, collective action will be necessary since no single nation is able to find its own solutions to the challenges that we face. In this context, we welcome the various initiatives currently underway to engage regional organizations to do their part in responding to challenges within their regions.

These partnerships have been taking shape and it is now up to us to give them substance by establishing appropriate frameworks, harmonizing methods and pooling capacities and resources for our work.

We in Africa consider the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations as being of great value for example, the peacekeeping and peace-making missions continue to enhance peace initiatives in our region. However, I would like to stress here the need for peacekeeping operations to go hand in hand with humanitarian efforts and the urgency so deserved.

African leaders have demonstrated their political will but they lack resources to resolve crisis in Africa. It is for this reason that we appeal to the international community to increase their support for the African Union so as to enhance its capacity and response mechanism.

The Kingdom of Swaziland supports the call for an integrated approach to conflict resolution on our continent and we also support the idea that the AU is the organ better placed to mobilize the efforts of its members – and most important of all, to undertake preventive action before any situation deteriorates.

Mr. President

The Kingdom of Swaziland however remains concerned by the conflict in the Middle East, which continues to threaten international peace and security. We believe that the roadmap holds the key to a positive outcome on the matter and urge the Quartet to continue its efforts to bridge the differences between the parties. While welcoming the positive efforts by the government of Israel to withdraw from some parts of the occupied territories, we would also urge both sides to make a commitment to a comprehensive cessation of all violence particularly that which is aimed at civilians, or else real progress will remain elusive. We remain hopeful that a solution to the conflict is imminent and continue to urge both parties to remain pragmatic and constructive in their quest for a solution.

Mr. President

The recently concluded MDGs follow-up Summit succeeded in highlighting the plight of Africa with unprecedented clarity.

The paradox of Africa is the extreme and increasing poverty of its people who face various forms of problems, including ill health, in a land so richly endowed with natural resources. This has increasingly become visible in the past decade, when evidence of poverty decline is witnessed in other parts of the world.

In much of Africa, one of the major causes and consequences of poverty is disease, mainly Malaria and HIV/AIDS. These diseases continue to compromise the health status of the African countries, halting, and even reversing health gains achieved in earlier years. The poor are caught in a complex poverty trap in which low incomes lead to low consumption, which in turn results in low capacity and low productivity.

The Kingdom of Swaziland believes that there are relatively affordable technologies in our modern world that can mitigate the effects of these diseases on the poor, just as much as experience has shown that proven strategies and health interventions can effectively and drastically reduce the toll of these killer diseases. Fortunately, the MDGs point the way forward.

We believe that the creation of a world solidarity fund to eradicate extreme poverty, and an accord within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on patents are imperative and would be steps in the right direction, so that poor countries can provide medicines to all.

Health is a strong entry point for poverty reduction, and alleviating the disease burden for the poor will contribute to the improvement of their social status.

Mr. President

This year also marks another milestone in our calendar and in the movement for gender equality and the advancement for women – the ten-year review of the Beijing Conference and Platform for Action. In 1995, women gathered in Beijing and took a giant step forward. At that point gender equality was recognized as a critical element to the development and peace of each and every country.

Some progress has been made, for example, many more girls are now enrolled in primary education. Investing in women is paramount in ensuring sustainable development, and during this session we must strive to meet the challenge that the Charter as established sixty years ago has articulated namely – the equal rights of women and men.

As we note this progress, we acknowledge the newer challenges that have emerged such as the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on both women and the girl child.

The HIV/AIDS scourge continues to plague our communities in Africa. The pandemic is much a medical crisis as it is an economic, social and political crisis. With no cure insight, it will continue to deplete the very much needed financial and human resources so critical for development.

My Government, on its part, has been collaborating with local communities to find homegrown solutions to this problem. We continue to be grateful to the global fund and other international agencies for the assistance and support they continue giving to us in our fight against this killer disease.

Mr. President

There is no doubt that developing countries are determined to fight poverty by creating jobs for our peoples. As we play our part in the mobilization of domestic resources, I would like to appeal to the developed world to meet their commitments by supporting us.

Effective assistance by the international community to enhance the quality of economic choices is necessary, as well as a firm commitment without conditionalities.

The Kingdom of Swaziland believes that the Doha Development Agenda needs to be seriously advanced, with industrialized countries addressing the needs of developing countries. We also call for better access to markets, and in particular, preferential markets with lower and non-tariff barriers to trade with industrialized countries.

Mr. President

On the question of reform of the United Nations organization, the Kingdom of Swaziland supports the wide range of proposals put forward to revitalize our organization in its management of our affairs. We are of the view that the role of the General Assembly has to be significantly strengthened to enable it to fulfill the tasks originally ascribed to it by the United Nations Charter. The General Assembly, as the democratic and most representative body of the UN, should seize this opportunity to take a lead and thus to demonstrate that it can express the political will of the people of the world.

In this regard, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should also be strengthened and given the decision-making powers to implement the development agenda of the United Nations. We also believe that ECOSOC should continue to be the overall coordinator of all development activities, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President

As we discuss greater representation and our wider participation in the UN system, and as we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our organization, allow me to remind all of us gathered here that the over 23 million people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) remain hopeful that their voice and quest for participation in this very important UN system will soon be heard and positively adhered to, so that they too can make their valuable contributions on the management and prosperity of world affairs. In the meantime, it is our continued hope that all existing issues between the two parties will be resolved peacefully.

I thank you for your attention!!!