

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
to the United Nations
New York



البعثة الدائمة
لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by

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before

The General Debate of the Sixtieth Session
of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as President of this session, which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. We hope this important session will provide a historic opportunity to review and evaluate the achievements of this organization and to formulate a political and development vision on strengthening our common action and ability to maintain international peace and security and achieve sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The UAE welcomes the outcome document of the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly and considers it a positive step towards achieving the MDGs, especially those related to peace and collective security, human rights, rule of law, and the strengthening of the United Nations. At the same time, we hope that our consultations on the other issues will continue in order to reach an international consensus.

In this context, we would like to reaffirm our position calling for the reform of the United Nations, including the increase of permanent and non- permanent membership of the Security Council based on an equitable geographical distribution system which ensures the transparency of its actions.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of reinforcing international commitment to the principles of international and humanitarian law and the respect for the sovereignty of states, and their cultural and religious diversity. We also emphasize respect for the international legitimate resolutions and recommendations of the global summits, including the Millennium Declaration.

We also affirm that the challenges of the 21st Century which include poverty, illiteracy, epidemics, deteriorating environment, terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are trans-boundary and pose grave threats to all of humanity. Therefore, while we supported the establishment of a peace building commission which will contribute to assisting countries recovering from civil and regional wars, we call for the utilization of our human cultures and beliefs in the joint efforts aimed at addressing these challenges. This should include convening an international conference on combating terrorism and its causes. The conference must provide a clear definition for terrorism, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, and distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of people against foreign occupation. At the same time, we confirm our support to the proposal presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for establishing an international centre for combating terrorism.

Mr. President,

Proceeding from our strong conviction in the importance of adopting peaceful solutions in resolving disputes and issues of foreign occupation, particularly in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf region, we call upon Iran to respond to its peaceful initiatives calling for resolving the issue of Iran's occupation of the three UAE islands; Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa through bilateral negotiations, or by referral to the International Court of Justice.

In this context, we reconfirm that all actions taken by Iran since its illegitimate occupation of the three islands in 1971 are void and illegal as they contradict the UN Charter, international law, principles of good neighborliness and peaceful co-existence among nations, and measures of building confidence. In view of the impact of this important and delicate issue on the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf region as well as the entire world, the UAE alongside other GCC countries looks forward to the Iranian Government reviewing its policy in this regard. We also hope that Iran would adopt a transparent and objective approach in its response to the repeated peaceful initiatives expressed by countries of the region which call for ending Iran's occupation of the UAE's three islands and creating a positive environment in the region that would lead to strengthening cooperation among its countries, and bringing prosperity and stability to their people.

We are hopeful that the political transition process in Iraq will be completed and, in this respect, we renew our support for all efforts made by the Iraqi Government towards strengthening the political dialogue among the different Iraqi factions, achieving national reconciliation, and building its national institutions, in order to enable Iraq to maintain its unity, territorial sovereignty and stability and play its natural part in the regional and international community.

Mr. President,

The UAE welcomes Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and some parts in the Northern West Bank and hopes that the international community would urge Israel to complete its withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shabaa farms, to dismantle the separation wall, and to discontinue its settlement activities in accordance with the international legitimate resolutions, the Arab Peace initiative which is based on peace for land and the roadmap. Furthermore, the international community must strengthen its support to the Palestinian authority and assist it in rebuilding its national institutions and resorting its natural and economic resources.

We also demand Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to subject its nuclear facilities to the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions which call for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf Region.

Mr. President,

In spite of the progress made in science and information technology, the international community continues to face a growing economic gap between the north and south. Therefore, we call for further international efforts in order to address this imbalance which requires participation of developing countries in the economic and trade decision making, and the commitment of industrial states to continue their assistance for development programs in the developing countries in order to create a fair and just international economic environment where all peoples enjoy the benefits of prosperity and development.

Mr. President,

The UAE has developed humanitarian and financial assistance programs for assisting the developing countries and countries affected by conflicts, civil and regional wars and natural disasters. Such assistance has exceeded the percentage recommended by the international conferences on development and the MDGs. To this end, it has adopted multifaceted development policies and plans to keep pace with the international economic and development changes, which included development of human resources, opening of the UAE markets to foreign trade, and enhancement of the role of the private sector in national development.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we hope our deliberations in this session will lead to a positive outcome that will contribute to strengthening our joint efforts aiming at the fulfillment of our people's hopes and ambitions to live in a world where security, stability, peace, freedom and justice prevail.

Thank you Mr. President.