



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



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STATEMENT

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NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to address this distinguished audience on behalf of the Republic of Bulgaria. I would like to convey my delegation's congratulations to His Excellency Dr. Ali Treki on his assumption of the Presidency of the General Assembly and wish him success in the months ahead. Our gratitude goes to His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockman for his leadership and guidance during the previous session.

Let me also thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his resolute efforts to promote the United Nations and its values.

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt on behalf of the European Union.

Bulgaria furthermore, would like to express its content about the election of Her Excellency Ambassador Irina Bokova as the new Director-General of UNESCO. We would like to thank all Member States for the trust invested in our candidate. Bulgaria takes great pride in having such a high representative at the UN level and would like to assure you that our government will continue to do everything it can to foster the policies and ideals of UNESCO.

Excellencies,

As an EU member, Bulgaria is dedicated to the spirit of multilateralism and thus fully supports the efforts to strengthen the United Nation's capacity to deliver effective international responses to global challenges.

The most pressing issues that require our attention are undoubtedly the global economic and financial crisis and the negative impact of climate change. In this light, we particularly appreciate the Secretary-General's initiative to having held a UN Summit on climate change on the 22nd of September. Furthermore, I would like to issue our support to the statement made by the President of France during his intervention. We are indeed running out of time, and if we want to reach an agreement in Copenhagen, timely action is needed.

Yet, climate change is not the only item on our agenda, we are faced with an even more extensive list of global concerns, ranging from the need to ensure energy and food security, to the need to manage the challenges related to migration, pandemics, and numerous regional and intra-state conflicts. Additionally, security risks and threats, including piracy on the high seas, as well as international efforts to combat terrorism remain high on the our agenda

In the globalised world of the 21st century my country strongly reiterates its continued and full commitment to the principle of effective multilateralism, based on international law, the UN Charter and the system of the United Nations which place the human being, his security, rights and dignity at the very centre of international politics.

Excellencies,

We believe in a "bottom-up" approach to global security where different forms of regional, subregional and transborder cooperation serve as building blocks for a comprehensive collective security system. We are convinced that effective multilateralism should be built on a robust partnership between the UN and regional organisations. In this regard, we welcome the significant progress made in EU-UN cooperation in crisis management. Bulgaria however

believes that cooperation between the EU and the UN in this field could be further strengthened and should deal with all aspects – from conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bulgaria considers the cooperation in Southeast Europe and in the Black Sea region as one of the priorities of its foreign policy. Being situated in a particular geographic crossroad, Bulgaria is in a unique position to assess the areas' pressing issues in their complexity, as they are more or less interlinked, and to apply a comprehensive approach. Together with our Allies in the European Union and NATO, Bulgaria is proactively cooperating with its immediate neighbours. Thus, we contribute to an enhanced interregional cooperation which extends along the Danube River, the Black Sea, and even into Central Asia and the Middle East. Core areas of our cooperation in the Black Sea region include among others the transport and energy sectors, and efforts to improve environmental protection.

Bulgaria strongly affirms that regional cooperation is an integral part of the European integration of the Western Balkans. It contributes to the strengthening of confidence, stability, security and the affirmation of the European standards in the region. To this end, Bulgaria is committed to continue efforts aimed at combating and preventing the use of “hate speech” likely to create fears and tensions between groups from different racial, ethnic, national, religious or social backgrounds. We therefore call for full compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Western Balkans. In this context, for Bulgaria the building of a stable, peaceful, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo, which lives in peace with its neighbours, is of primary importance for the security architecture of the Western Balkans and Europe as a whole.

Bulgaria is particularly interested in a peaceful and prosperous long-term development of the Black Sea region. Despite the active cooperation among countries in the region, much of its potential has so far not been utilized sufficiently. In this light, it must be said that the South Caucasus remains a region of concern for Bulgaria. We call upon the parties involved to overcome their differences, and to engage in a dialogue which shall ensure the peaceful and prosperous development of the entire Caucasus.

Today, it is our task not only to respond to the challenges, but also to embrace the opportunities that the Black Sea region provides. Bulgaria believes that the strong Eastern Dimension of the European Neighbourhood policy is addressing the needs and priorities of all the partners. We see opportunities for launching projects in important sectors such as transport, trade, energy, environmental protection and border security. My country is one of the main supporters of the Black Sea Synergy programme, which serves as an inclusive cooperation platform between the EU and the countries of the wider Black Sea region. Bulgaria will try to contribute to the success of these policies, in particular through its forthcoming Chairmanship of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

Bulgaria would furthermore like to thank the United States and our partners in the European Union for the constructive part which they play in both the Balkan and the Black Sea region. We are grateful for their council and support and we very much look forward to further deepening and intensifying our cooperation.

Excellencies,

The list of persistent grave risks and challenges to global security is, regrettably, not a short one. We are convinced of the need to step up efforts aimed at achieving progress in the areas of international disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, the need for a full and universal implementation of the Non-proliferation Treaty regime remains of utmost importance and my country is dedicated to the successful outcome of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Bulgaria supports the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and appreciates the work done so far regarding the Protocols of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. We reiterate our strong commitment for a legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty.

We are deeply concerned by the recent turn of events regarding the nuclear dossier of Iran, and in this respect we strongly appeal to the Iranian authorities to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions and to pursue its full cooperation with the IAEA. Bulgaria hopes that the forthcoming negotiations between Iran and the P5+1, scheduled for the beginning of October, will make it possible to renew the discussion on the Iranian Nuclear Programme and will pave the way for a comprehensive solution before December this year. Furthermore, as a friend of the people of Iran, Bulgaria is concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran.

The threat of international terrorism is one of the most serious global threats to peace and security today. Thus, efforts to contain and overcome terrorism should remain high among the priorities of the international community. Together with our EU partners Bulgaria will continue to fulfil its obligations under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and strive to further intensify and deepen the international cooperation on this issue.

Excellencies,

Bulgaria confirms its position for the necessity of further reforms of the main UN bodies. We believe it is desirable to enhance the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the system. Furthermore, the need for UN reform becomes obvious when recalling that the world of the 21st century poses enormous and unprecedented challenges to Member States and the International Community. A central element in a UN reform should certainly be the reform of the Security Council. Once again we would like to reiterate our position that the Council needs to be enlarged in both its categories. Furthermore, we believe that the regional group of Eastern European States should be allocated at least one additional non-permanent seat.

Bulgaria sees the UN as a symbol for peace and cooperation. However, maintaining peace requires that peace is firmly anchored and sustainable. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) therefore serves as an important element of the UN security architecture. A core element in the protection and installing of peace are the UN peacekeeping missions. The Republic of Bulgaria is a firm supporter of this practice and takes great pride in participating in the international peacekeeping efforts in the Western Balkans and Afghanistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bulgaria is well aware of the need to pursue international diplomacy in order to overcome existing conflicts. Consequently we welcome the positive role which the EU plays as a mediator in numerous conflict areas worldwide.

One such area is the Middle East. Bulgaria firmly supports the efforts of the members of the Quartet in the Middle East peace process and believes that it is of fundamental importance to re-establish a direct dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. Bulgaria firmly supports the position of the EU in this regard and underlines the fact that a comprehensive and lasting peace will only materialise if the Israeli and Palestinian people can live peacefully side by side in their own sovereign and mutually recognised states.

Another area where the UN, supported by the EU, has an enormous potential to be a force for peace and stability is Afghanistan. Bulgaria believes that overall a more comprehensive and coordinated approach in Afghanistan is desirable. In this light, the Bulgarian government thanks the Swedish EU presidency for preparing a Blue Book which lists all European efforts in Afghanistan and thus will help to improve the coordination on the ground.

Excellencies,

As stated in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit governments' respect for international law is an undisputable foundation of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. We firmly believe that there cannot be sustainable peace without effective justice. As an EU member we reiterate our support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) as well as to our belief in the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute. Bulgaria attaches great importance to the forthcoming Review Conference in 2010 and considers it an excellent opportunity to strengthen the Court and to broaden the support for it. We also share the view that the legacy and integrity of the work of the ICTY, ICTR and SCSL must be preserved.

Together with our European Union partners Bulgaria is strongly committed to the cause of human rights. As such Bulgaria will continue to clearly condemn any violations of human rights such as torture, slavery, sexual abuse or female genital mutilation. In this light, we additionally support the call by the Swedish EU presidency for more female empowerment and gender equality. Furthermore, we appreciate the Secretary-General's report entitled "Implementation of the Responsibility to Protect" of January 2009 as an important and timely outline and state our firm interest to further discuss and elaborate on the concept. We hope that with the recently adopted GA resolution this concept will be implemented.

Respect for international law is the basis for justice and peaceful co-existence of different peoples and cultures. Bulgaria therefore regards the UN Alliance of Civilizations initiative as a valuable contribution to the international efforts towards peace and stability. As a country, which believes traditionally in promoting tolerance, Bulgaria has endorsed and will continue to be part of the regional efforts to strengthen inter-cultural dialogue, particularly in South East Europe.

Excellencies,

Over the course of the past year the world has faced multiple challenges related to the global economic and financial crisis. This crisis has had a huge impact on virtually all sectors of our economy. Bulgaria firmly believes that we can only overcome the crisis through the joint efforts of all actors involved. We all sit in the same boat here and we all must ensure we learn and remember the lessons of our past mistakes. To achieve this we call for a further intensification of the cooperation between developing and developed countries. In order to avoid further aggravation of global poverty and hunger additional support to developing

countries should be provided. We are generally concerned that the global recession might lead to a decrease in the total level of ODA. Therefore, greater attention should be paid to the conclusions put forward in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008). Furthermore, while being well aware of our financial constraints, Bulgaria, as a country which recently emerged from the status of a recipient of foreign aid, is committed to live up to its international responsibilities and is determined to be a force for peace and stability.

Overall, we continue to believe that cost optimization is of utmost importance for the efficient work of the UN. In this regard, Bulgaria is concerned about the persisting growth foreseen in the UN regular budget for the upcoming biennium 2010-2011. We therefore continue to call for the reduction of any unreasonable costs in this budget. This has to be done in parallel with the process of achieving UN System-Wide Coherence and strengthening the UN capacity to deliver “as one”.

Excellencies,

It is true that the UN's efforts for peace, stability and development constitute an impressive list of achievements. It is also true that a lot more could and should be achieved this year and in the years to come. At the end of the day, however, the achievements of the UN depend on what we, the Member states, are willing to do. We have a shared responsibility for the future of our planet. Only through open and honest cooperation can we be successful in overcoming the challenges ahead! So, let us work together, demonstrate beyond doubt our good will, flexibility and commitment and make this 64th GA session a true success.

Thank you for your attention!