

EGYPT



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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement

by

**H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz
The Permanent Representative of Egypt**

before

**The Informal Meeting of the Plenary
on the High-Level Plenary Meeting
of the General Assembly of September 2005**

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Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to express our appreciation for the draft outcome document which we consider as a good basis for reaching a consensus on the September Summit outcome within a negotiating process that continues to be open, inclusive and transparent.

Before I proceed to present our comments and proposals on the document, allow me to reiterate some of the pillars that we believe should be strictly observed through our negotiating process, these are:

- 1- It is imperative that the reform process lead to a balanced outcome that would satisfy the ambitions of all States, through observing the delicate balance between development, security, human rights and institutional reform. We should depart from the commitment to enhance all these aspects simultaneously.
- 2- Our objective should remain achieving practical, factual, and implementable outcome, without attempting to push for rapid agreement on controversial issues within tight time frame. We believe that political determination to get things done substantively, as soon as possible and by consensus is the best way to forge ahead with reforms.
- 3- Within this outlook, we support your proposal to focus on some issues where we feel that agreement is closer, and set aside issues that could be subject to further negotiations in the future to deepen the basis for the widest possible agreement over an extended period of time.

Mr. President,

While associating my delegation with the positions taken by various political and regional groups that we belong to, I would like to make some specific proposals on certain aspects of the document:

First. In the section titled “values and principles”, we believe that more stress should be made on ensuring respect for the Charter of the

United Nations and guaranteeing adherence to its principles and objectives.

Furthermore, Egypt believes that the consensus we strive to build on major threats and challenges and ways to address them should not only be based on current developments and circumstances, but should also be based on the analysis and the lessons learned from the implementation, or lack of implementation, of our commitments in the Charter.

Our common objective should be to restore the credibility that multilateralism lost through the past few years, whether as a result of the failure of the Organization's developmental efforts, or the lack of political will or financial and material means to intervene effectively in issues of security and other political issues that require further action by the United Nations, or through the tendency on the part of some to let go of their international commitments based on economic, political or even military strengths and alliances.

Second. The section on development needs restructuring to meet the agreed priorities. New headings and sub-headings, such as "globalization" and "the role of the U.N. in development", should be added. More balance in the commitments between developing and developed nations need to be observed. The outcome of the Summit in this section should be in the form of decisions on what we should do collectively, not only welcoming what some have done.

The sub-section on "meeting the special needs of Africa" is in need for further strengthening through a more proactive approach that would include, *inter alia*, convening an annual meeting of ECOSOC on the progress achieved in the implementation of NEPAD and in combating more effectively various diseases and pandemics in Africa, as well as enhancing and supporting the regional and sub-regional African initiatives and reinforcing institutional cooperation between the U.N. and the African Union.

Third. On peace and collective security, it is imperative that the Organization and the member States draw the necessary conclusions from the failures of the past while negotiating and agreeing on a security consensus for the future.

While dealing with the section on pacific settlement of disputes, we believe that the Organization should have a clear strategy that goes beyond calling on States to settle their disputes peacefully, or merely stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to the prevention of armed conflicts.

We have a responsibility to establish this preventive strategy, and to base it on addressing the underlying causes of these disputes, in their broader scenes, along with enhancing and coordinating the efforts of the respective regional organizations and political groupings.

Thorough analysis should be made of the situation in long standing problems, such as the Middle East, with a view to reinforcing the organization's activities and gearing it towards achieving negotiated solutions based on international legitimacy.

Fourth. On peace-keeping, it is our conviction that all activities of peace-keepers in the fulfillment of their respective mandates should be within the confines of the principles governing peace-keeping operations and under United Nations command and control.

We support the decision to establish a peace-building commission, but the details, as stipulated in para. 40, need to be reviewed and negotiated. We have a detailed paper in this regard, which we will take as a basis for proposing amendments.

The use of force, in our view, should be under strict U.N. authority and in accordance with Charter provisions. Any further discussion of principles to govern the use of force by the United Nations should be focused on achieving a better balance between the respective roles of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General in this regard, as well as enabling each of them to undertake its responsibility effectively.

Disarmament and non-proliferation is an aspect that Egypt attaches great importance to. We believe that there is an obligation on each and every one of us to take action and work towards the elimination of vertical and horizontal proliferation of WMDs. There is

particularly an obligation on nuclear weapon states to make systematic and progressive steps towards nuclear disarmament.

Simultaneously, achieving a non discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable fissile material cut off treaty is a priority, provided it takes into account nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives and include all stockpiles within a strong verification mechanism.

To enhance the NPT regime, we will support any serious attempt that would guarantee the faithful implementation of the provisions of the Treaty and the outcomes of the review conferences agreed by consensus. Achieving universality of the Treaty should remain a priority, along with achieving universality of other treaties in the field of weapons of mass destruction. There is a dire need to dealing with all such weapons on equal footing.

Strengthening the safeguards mechanism require achieving universality of the NPT on one hand and the universality of the current safeguard system on the other. Safeguards should not be used to restrict the inalienable right of all States parties to NPT to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy as long as it is for peaceful use.

On terrorism: The General Assembly should be mandated to develop a comprehensive U.N. counter-terrorism strategy that should address effectively its underlying causes, in particular foreign occupation. For this reason, we still believe in the validity of the “state terrorism” concept.

Targeting and deliberate killings of civilians and non-combatants, including by an occupying power in any occupied territory should be dealt with decisively within this strategy. A proper distinction should be made between terrorism and the struggle of peoples under occupation to achieve their inalienable rights.

We support concluding and adopting a Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism through the General Assembly and by consensus. No time frame for achieving this objective should be

imposed, as this would undermine the negotiating process on one of the most serious issues of our time.

Fifth. **On human rights and the rule of law,** we stress the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, while stressing at the same time the need to observe the particularities and special characteristics of each society, in particular, its ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.

States are fully responsible for the protection of their own citizens. In doing so, states are free to receive assistance or support from regional and international organizations and arrangements, or from the international community as they see fit. In cases of violations to international law that could constitute a breach to international peace and security, the Security Council may interfere in accordance with its mandate in the Charter. Apart from those two cases, we do not believe that this responsibility is to be shared at a wider perspective.

On the other hand, our support to the culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations and religions is unwavering.

Sixth. **Strengthening the United Nations** in our view does not entail disturbing the balance between the main organs of the Organization. To the contrary, we feel that this is the opportunity to restore the right and correct balance between them in order to enhance the effectiveness of our activities.

In the meantime, we should look for ways and means to enhance the capacity of the main organs to do better. The role of the General Assembly should be strengthened along with the role of ECOSOC to meet our new challenges. The flexibility awarded to the Secretary-General in running the Organization should be coupled by a complete and well defined system of accountability and without infringing on the authority of other organs and the primary role of Member States in this context. We should not strive to establish any more super structures.

Reforms should build on what was previously achieved and agreed to by Member States. It should be based on providing the necessary inputs, financial and otherwise, that will enable an efficient Secretariat to fully implement all mandates. The implementation of any

reforms that we might agree to in our process should not entail neither the reallocation of resources from mandated programmes and activities in favor of implementing these reforms, nor overburdening member states - particularly the developing countries - with additional budgetary commitments. This is imperative in our consideration of all proposed institutional reforms.

To that effect, we agree on the need to reform the human rights machinery to overcome its functional problems and the problems of politicization and double standards. The establishment of a human rights council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly to substitute the Commission on Human Rights would require a clear assertion that the reform of the Commission would not lead to the desired result. We can reach this conclusion when we reach agreement through negotiations on an acceptable framework for the functioning, scope, mandate, decision making mechanism and means of electing members to this suggested body. Furthermore, a clear delimitation will be essential for the boundaries between such a body and the Third Committee as the main body dealing with human rights issues within the General Assembly.

The reform and expansion of the Security Council is also an essential part of the reform process that would guarantee the success of the summit. We still believe that the objective of this process is to guarantee better representation of the developing countries in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Council's membership.

While Egypt commits itself to the Ezulwini consensus reflecting the African position on this important issue, we stress the need to have the enlargement process as a uniting and not dividing factor, both at the regional and international levels. It should, in this view, ensure balanced representation of all civilizations and cultures, including both the Islamic and the Arab worlds, and new members should, therefore, enjoy the widest possible level of support among the member states of the Organization.

Thank you Mr. President.