



**ADDRESS**

**BY**

**H.E. GENERAL EMILE LAHOUD  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON**

**AT THE  
60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**Mr. President;**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this session of the General Assembly, and thank your predecessor Mr. Ping for all his efforts during his tenure. And I would like to thank His Excellency, the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for all his endeavors as he seeks the preservation of this great institution's integrity and World Peace.

**Mr. President;  
Esteemed Assembly;**

This year's General assembly comes days after a landmark meeting of World Leaders, where they adopted a blueprint that aims to increase the efficiency of the United Nation in the prosecution of Human rights abuses and the preservation of world Peace and security. Moreover, this instrument calls on all to move forward with a much needed, comprehensive program of reforms at the United Nations and Security Council.

This evidently demonstrates our faith in the primacy and centrality of the United Nations in the preservation of World Peace, as the embodiment of our collective desire and will as the legitimate body for crisis resolution, within the framework of every individual State's sovereignty.

Truly, the only way out of this dangerous impasse, is a return to a multi-polar world order, based on the rule of international law and justice, and on the respect of every Nation's sovereignty. Moreover, this wise approach should be complemented by serious and concerted efforts in fighting Poverty, Oppression and consequently, the extraction of the seeds of Terror.

The core values of a Democratic and just world are best served by enhancing the capabilities of the United Nations and its instruments, and by reinforcing "in house" Democratic values. This Institution should remain a sanctuary of a world Consciousness and the primary defender of human values such as Freedom, Justice and Peace.

**Mr. President;**

The advances in Telecommunications and Information technologies, signature traits of Globalization, have led to a withering of geographical boundaries as opposed to the strengthening of Multinational corporations and hence, the need for a new approach in tackling our world's problems in International relations. The "crumbs" from the rich nations have become insufficient in quenching the needs of a Third World seeking to extract itself from backwardness, and to eradicate poverty and disease. These "ailments" have spread beyond the boundaries of the great developmental divide, as a stern wake-up call and a ticking bomb for us all to heed.

This is why, it is imperative to call for a serious and urgent dialogue between North and South, for rapid and eased transfer of technological advances and capitals and for bolstering the development of those nations who seek modernity. Moreover, it is crucial to encourage the interaction and cooperation between developing states through such forums as the Summit that was held in Brasilia last May, where Arab Nations met the Nations of South America. Lebanon looks forward to the follow up meetings of the Brasilia Summit, considering the importance of cooperation and the complementarity of these two important geographical blocks.

**Mr. President;**

At this juncture, it is logical to ask whether extremism, terrorism and wanton violence against innocent civilians are the by-products of this environment of seclusion and deprivation. And in view of this rapid spread of Terrorism, we feel that the approach to counter the plague of Terrorism remains a superficial one, unable to tackle the root causes of this plague.

Having suffered the awful consequences of this "plague," Lebanon was always a precursor in condemning all terrorist acts around the world. This is because few nations have endured and continue to endure the consequences of this evil. This is why we see that an effective anti-terror campaign requires an environment of constructive cooperation worldwide, away from "politically" motivated campaigns of vilification and as a platform for a clear definition of Terrorism, away from willful or unintended mixing between the unalienable right of people to fight OCCUPATION and the act of wanton terror.

Therefore, and in order to conclusively win the War on Terror, the "security approach" should be complemented by mid and long term approaches, aimed at resolving political crises in order to deprive the terrorists from any legitimacy. This is why tackling the problems of oppression and occupation, along with bolstering development, education and the attainment of a better life, will surely lead to shrinking the human pool that feeds extremism.

**Mr. President**

For decades now, the Middle East has witnessed conflicts and unresolved disputes and as a consequence, has been subjected to the festering wounds of terrorism. Needless to say, the core of the problem remains in the fact that Arab lands are still under occupation in spite of many International legality's resolutions, many adopted in this very edifice, and calling for an end to occupation.

The immediate implementation of these resolutions, as well as United Nations resolution 194, that affirms the "right of return" of the Palestinian refugees to their lands confiscated by Israel and prevents the resettlement of the uprooted Palestinians in their host countries, remains the ONLY way to diffuse and to dry up the wells of extremism. This will pave the way to a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement in our Region, as foreseen in the 1991 Madrid Peace Summit and the implementation of the "Land for Peace" principle.

These principles for Peace were confirmed as a "strategic choice" by all Arab Leaders during the Beirut Arab summit of 2002'. Sadly, this initiative waits to be seized upon to resolve regional conflicts and to reach a final and peaceful settlement in the Middle east.

Awaiting the "historical" resolution of this conflict, Lebanon commends the UNRWA for all that it does, and calls upon the International Community to bolster its capabilities, in order to alleviate the hardships of the Palestinian refugees in their place of "temporary" residence.

**Mr. President;**

The daily Israeli violations of Lebanon's territorial integrity, and aggressions against the People of South Lebanon, have rendered this important part of my Country as yet another "point of tensions" in the Middle East. Israel's violation of the Blue Line and its continuing occupation of parts of my Country, along with the imprisonment of scores of our citizens without any recourse to "due process" are in CLEAR VIOLATION of International Law. To say nothing of the lethal hardships faced by our Citizens in the freed areas of South Lebanon, due to THOUSANDS of land mines planted by Israel during its two-decade long occupation of South Lebanon.

My country, continues to adhere to a Comprehensive and Just peace settlement, to the principle of non-aggression and to the respect of human rights, and yearns for the implementation of all international resolutions towards these ends. In the meantime, we cannot but value the role of the United Nations in South Lebanon through the UNIFIL, a role that has extended and benefited Lebanon for almost three decades. And our clinging-on to the UNIFIL's presence emanates from our commitment to Peace and security, awaiting a final resolution of the conflicts in the Region.

Here, I would like to avail myself of the opportunity to salute the UNIFIL forces active in South Lebanon, to thank them for their sacrifices and to bow in memory of the fallen Peace keepers.

**Mr. President;**

Lebanon has long endured from Israel's wars and occupation, despite a United Nations Security Council resolution that called for the immediate cessation of this occupation. Alas, Israel ignored this resolution for over TWO decades. This gave birth to a staunchly NATIONAL movement of Resistance and Defense of Lebanon's territorial integrity, as guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations, under the "right to fight occupation."

Despite the persistence of all the aforementioned conditions of Occupation, violations and aggressions, and due to Lebanon's adherence to all world legitimacy resolutions, an adherence based on a clear understanding of the World Community's demands, the government of Lebanon launched an internal dialogue between all Lebanese groups, in order to maintain our unity, security and stability, and to reinforce our internal and international positions. We look forward to maintain this rapport with the World Community, in order to achieve these noble goals.

**Mr. President;**

Since the historic reconciliation at Taef, Lebanon has enjoyed over a decade of stability and tranquility, quickly recaptured its regional eminence and its pioneering role, as a land of religious tolerance and example to follow in the dialogue of civilizations. Moreover, Lebanon was able to enjoy an unprecedented level of economic rejuvenation and was able to forge an iron-clad unity in its Armed and civil institutions.

However, recently Lebanon has gone through some awfully fateful events, of which the assassination of Prime Minister Ralik Hariri constituted the hardest blow in its modern history. The repercussions of Prime Minister Hariri's assassination have terribly grieved a Nation and were felt throughout the world. As we look forward for a timely and prompt disclosure of the International Inquiry Commission's results into the investigation of this heinous act, we thank the Security Council for consenting with Lebanon's request to appoint such a Commission.

Moreover, Lebanon appreciates the great efforts undertaken by the Inquiry Commission in its search of the "truth," and will afford the Commission all the support needed in order for us to prosecute the culprits to the full extent of the law. This underlines the commitments of Lebanon, and the World Community in the fight against Terrorism.

Despite, the abominable assassination of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and the ensuing national malaise, we were able to conduct exemplary parliamentary elections, heralded by most as yet another landmark in the Democratic heritage of Lebanon.

These elections were held at the highest standards, as testified by the UN and international monitoring officials. Consequently, a government of "National Union" was formed and took it upon itself the immediate tackling of Lebanon's internal and external affairs, within the framework of a serious dialogue, aimed at achieving a national consensus and the preservation of what we all desire, namely that of Lebanon's stability and National Unity.

The New Lebanese government, is determined to undertake an exhaustive plan of reforms that will encompass all political, administrative and economic aspects, and as a first step, it has established a much needed consultative National body to formulate a new electoral law that will live up to the recommendations of the European Union's delegated commission.

Moreover, the Lebanese government looks forward to the valuable support of the United Nations and its instruments, and as such, conveys the gratitude of the People of Lebanon. Finally, we laud the precise follow-ups provided by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund towards the rebuilding of a solid national economy.

**Mr. President;**

We stand at this pulpit, setting forth Lebanon's journey, as it struggles for Freedom, Justice and the Rule of Law. It was Lebanon's fate to walk this path in a region festered by decade-long conflicts and disputes, and as such, ended up paying an exorbitant price in wars, occupations and assassinations. But Lebanon was relentless in its devotion to Good and Right, and was always able to defeat the forces of Sedition and Destruction.

Today, in our moment of Triumph, we owe it all to our perseverance and to the International Community's commitment to Lebanon. We ask that you take our hand, once again, to cross from the threshold of fear and wars to that of Hope and Peace.

**Thank You.**