

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT
OF
THE STATE OF QATAR

DELIVERED
BY

His Excellency
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Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Follow-up

BEFORE
the 60th Session
of the General Assembly
of the United Nations

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In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure at the outset to extend to you, Mr. President, congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly, wishing you every success in discharging your functions. I would also like to extend thanks and appreciation to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, for his valuable efforts in conducting the work of the 59th Session of the General Assembly, especially those efforts he expended to arrive at a consensus on the final document of the World Summit of 2005.

I would also like to thank H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, for his tireless efforts to strengthen the role of our international organization.

Mr. President,

The world leaders who met at the United Nations Headquarters to follow up the outcome of the Millennium Summit, and the coordinated and integrated implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the majors conferences and summits held by the United Nations in the social, economic and related fields, have managed to adopt a document that calls for implementing reforms in the UN and taking bolder collective steps to combat poverty, achieve development, establish security in the world and uphold human rights.

Mr. President,

The world today is experiencing extremely difficult economic conditions that pose a real threat to the process of social and economic development in the developing countries, especially the LDC's, and presage a great danger to the development of their peoples. This has resulted from such factors as the decrease in the flows of ODA, the unfair international terms of trade, the imposition of restrictions on the access of their exports to world markets, unfair prices for their commodity exports, their heavy

external debt burden, the adverse effects of globalization, liberalization of the economy and interdependence. In spite of the progress made in many arenas of international cooperation, the problems of hunger, poverty and such diseases as AIDS, malaria and TB have acquired horrifying dimensions, and still pose a major challenge to the International Community. Unless the latter makes concerted efforts to accelerate equitable development in the developing countries, especially the LDC's, the Millennium goal of halving poverty by 2015 will be an elusive aim.

Mr. President,

The International Community, by resolving in the Millennium Summit, to declare war on poverty by launching a continuous campaign to make the right to development a reality for all people, has made an implicit commitment to create a social, economic and political environment in the developing countries, especially the LDC's, that would be favorable to the translation of the right to development into a concrete reality for all their peoples. This would provide cohesion and fair social integration for their societies and a real opportunity to eradicate poverty so that they would enjoy full, productive and gainful employment. It was also resolved to seek a fair and just Globalization that embraces everyone, so that the developing countries, and especially the LDC's, would be spared the danger of marginalization in the international economy. The world leaders affirmed, at the Millennium Summit, that international cooperation is the most important factor in making the world a place for decent living. They also affirmed that free trade, the liberalization of the economy and interdependence are the best means to accelerate equitable economic development in the developing countries.

Mr. President,

The International Community is experiencing a critical phase in the negotiations related to the Doha Development Agenda. These negotiations made concrete progress last year in some difficult, controversial areas. Agreement was reached on the launching of negotiations regarding the question of trade concessions included in the four questions which were left, by agreement, outside the scope the Doha Programme of Action. These are investment, competition, trade and environment and trade concessions.

However, the acceptance by the developed countries was, regrettably, conditioned on the non-holding of negotiations on the other three questions.

We are looking forward to the achievement of solid, ambitious progress at the Sixth Conference of the World Trade Organizations in Hong Kong, and that we would be, thus, able to conclude the negotiations in 2006.

Mr. President,

The developing countries have fulfilled their pledges, and we hope that the coming negotiations regarding the implementation of the outcomes of this Summit will render the global partnership for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals a reality, and the right to development a living reality, and that the developed countries will honour their pledges, including increasing the ODA to 0.7% of their GDP and will accelerate the process of forgiving the external debt of all poor countries.

Mr. President,

We have often stated that peace in the Middle East will only be achieved by the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly. All of these resolutions recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self determination and the establishment of its independent state on its national soil, with Al-Quds as its capital, the withdrawal from the occupied Golan up to the border of the 4th of June 1967, and the full withdrawal from the Lebanese territories still under occupation.

On this basis, the international mediation resulted in the road-map which affirms the principle of land for peace, and calls for the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and the establishment of the State of Palestine. Then the Arab States launched, at their summit meeting in Beirut in March 2002, an initiative calling for the establishment of normal relations between the Arab states and Israel in return for Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 boarder.

The Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is a first step, which we hope would be followed by similar steps in all the Palestinian territories and

the other occupied Arab territories, in accordance with international resolutions and the relevant initiatives and agreements in order to establish stability, security and comprehensive peace for all states and peoples of the region.

Mr. President,

Here, I cannot but refer to the difficult conditions experienced by the fraternal Iraqi people. It is our hope that the new constitution will embody the hopes and aspirations of the Iraqi people and contribute to the establishment of security and stability in the country. We also hope that the interests of all segments of the Iraqi people will be taken into consideration, that all the people will feel they are part of the established system, and that the unity and the national identity of Iraq will be preserved.

Mr. President,

Believing as it does in the great importance of the NPT for international peace and security, the State of Qatar has acceded to the Treaty and calls on all the States, from this rostrum, to do so. It also seeks to transform the Middle East region into a zone that is totally free from all kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

My country has unambiguously condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It has also supported all Security Council resolutions relevant to the question of terrorism, and cooperated with the international community in implementing these agreements. However, we feel that success in eradicating this phenomenon requires dealing with its underlining causes, including the social, economic and political aspects that provide a breeding ground for terrorism.

We also support the idea of convening an international conference on terrorism, and drawing up an international strategy to combat it. In this context, we feel that defining terrorism and clearly distinguishing it from the struggle waged by peoples in exercise of their legitimate right to defend their freedom and enjoy self-determination must be the most important norm that

enjoys international consensus. This is a right which is embodied in all international rules and practices.

Our world today needs, more than ever, a comprehensive authority qualified to perform its desired role as an international instrument; one that seeks to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of a social and economic nature, consolidating security and stability, maintaining international peace and enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

We must also seek earnestly to respect this global diversity, protect it and allow it to prosper. Hence, we feel that the proposal to establish a standing council for human rights with a smaller membership to be elected with a two third majority merits further study in serious intergovernmental negotiations with a view to achieving consensus on the establishment of the proposed council, its membership, its mandate, and the organ of which it is going to be a subsidiary body, which we hope would be the General Assembly. We must commit ourselves to human rights as in the UN Charter, and fully comply with the internationally recognized human rights standards.

Mr. President,

The questions of the expansion of the Security Council and the concept of the collective security require further study and intergovernmental negotiations so as to arrive at a consensus on these important questions.

In this context, we support the Secretary-General as regards the importance of reforming the UN Secretariat for the reasons indicated in his report "In Larger Freedom". However, we feel that any proposals to reform the Secretariat are extremely important, and must be the subject of a careful study and negotiations undertaken by the UN General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President.