



**FRANCE**



**Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies**

**59<sup>ème</sup> Session**

**DEBAT GENERAL**



(Unofficial Translation)

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MICHEL BARMIER  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AT THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
New York, Thursday, 23 September, 2004

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Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,

UN action continues to expand. The Organization also has a natural vocation to be at the center of the counter-terrorism measures that the international community is putting in place. This threat, now global, calls for a global response. That is why France committed itself here to this fight, and did so again recently by supporting the strengthening of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The tragedy of 11 September, which I refer to with emotion in New York City, was an attack on us all. Since then, terrorism has continued to strike: in Europe, in Madrid, six months ago; in Asia, in Bali and Jakarta. Cowardly attacks are mounted against the weakest. How can we not be appalled at the tragedy of the school in Beslan when children, the symbol of innocence, were violently massacred?

We wage a merciless fight against terrorism. Let us at the same time address its roots. This means: put an end to situations that terrorists exploit; give the world's excluded hope again; restore dignity to peoples deprived of it; see that dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, cultures and religions prevail rather than conflict and intolerance.

Global threats require a strong, and always collective, response. The threat of proliferation, which is liable to merge with terrorism, calls for resolute and sustained action. The non-proliferation regime has been seriously undermined by the combined action of certain states and

In Iraq, violence is exploding. Only when the Iraqis themselves take control of their future and when the political process provided for by the Security Council continues will the country be able to escape the chaos which is destabilizing the entire region. France, as everyone knows, did not approve of the conditions in which the conflict was unleashed. Neither today, nor tomorrow will it commit itself militarily in Iraq. However, it reaffirms its willingness, with its European partners, to assist the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country and restoring their institutions.

The Millennium goals, which commit the developing countries, donor states and multilateral institutions, are an overriding obligation for us all, especially the wealthiest countries.

Over \$50 billion a year is still needed to achieve these objectives. On Monday, more than a hundred countries endorsed the "New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty." They ask that additional resources be provided for development, including through innovative mechanisms. This powerful movement, launched in this very forum of the United Nations, to generate the resources for justice and development is an important milestone. My country, through the voice of the President of the Republic, is proud to have contributed to it.

But in addition, France is also fighting for a more controlled, and therefore most just, globalization which gives everyone a chance. It advocates the establishment of a political body to improve coordination of multilateral action in the economic, social and environmental sphere, and provide the necessary impetus. The United Nations must have its due place in it. This is one of the major issues we must consider in coming months, especially on the basis of the proposals the panel on reform is expected to make.

A more just world is also a world that respects human dignity and freedom. The fundamental human rights are universal. Each man, woman and child has them inherently. It is up to us to see they thrive and are respected.

It is also up to us to fight uncompromisingly against all manifestations of violence and discrimination based on race, origin, gender and religion.

The dignity of man and peoples also requires due respect for cultures, in their diversity. The

permanent and non-permanent; and we have expressed support for the aspirations of Germany, Japan, Brazil and India, which should be accompanied by a country from Africa.

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In a complex and unpredictable world, it is our common responsibility to maintain and strengthen the one institution where all nations can unite to shape and control their common destiny. The UN, through its legitimacy and ever-increasing effectiveness, must be the instrument of the universal conscience of which it remains the crucible

Thank you./.