



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10017-2905

STATEMENT BY

H. E. MR. PETROS MOLYVIATIS

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

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Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President I would like to begin by congratulating you upon your election to this challenging office. Under your able guidance, this assembly will take forward its relentless pursuit for peace, security and prosperity throughout the world. I can assure you of Greece's unwavering support in your efforts.

Many thanks to the outgoing president, Mr. Julian Hunte for his exemplary efforts and achievements in revitalizing the work of the General Assembly as well as on many other issues.

The Greek Government fully subscribes to the statement delivered earlier by the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union as well as to the EU Priorities presented to this General Assembly.

century events of great importance changed the world we live in.

From the most shocking tragedy of September 11th to the bombing attacks in Madrid and the recent acts of unspeakable brutality in Beslan, a dark parade of acts of blind violence has caused immense human suffering. This has increased our responsibility and cemented our will to work in solidarity for a safer and fair world. Fighting international terrorism has become the most pressing task among our priorities.

In this fight, we must prevail. Besides the scourge of terrorism, however, there are many more challenges and grave problems that afflict humanity. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, human trafficking, organized crime, failing states, environmental catastrophes, social and economic crises, pandemics, large scale humanitarian disasters, hunger and poverty, constitute the core problems we have to face in solidarity regardless of geography, culture or religion.

Last year the Secretary-General announced the creation of the High Level Panel of eminent persons to assess these new threats and challenges and to suggest ways to deal with them, including through reform of the multilateral international system. We fully support these efforts. We are eager to

contribute constructively, to the best of our abilities, towards making the United Nations as effective as possible for the 21st Century.

Monsieur le Président,

Les grands défis et les menaces auxquels nous sommes confrontés sont une source de profonde inquiétude tant pour nous que pour les peuples que nous représentons. Cependant, j'ai la conviction qu'il faut éviter à tout prix se laisser entraîner dans une atmosphère de pessimisme et d'angoisse pour ce qui concerne l'avenir.

Quant à moi, je partage avec des millions de gens de par le monde, l'espoir, l'optimisme et la détermination qui ont été récemment mis en lumière durant les Jeux Olympiques et Paralympiques d'Athènes.

A Athènes, les athlètes du monde ont dédié leurs efforts à une noble cause et nous ont démontré que compétition ne signifie pas nécessairement tension, friction, crise ou conflit. Bien au contraire, ils ont prouvé que les aspirations des uns et des autres peuvent non seulement coexister pacifiquement mais aussi conduire au renforcement de l'amitié, de la solidarité et de la coopération parmi les individus et les nations.

L'idéal ancien de la trêve Olympique incarne l'espoir de l'homme moderne pour le règlement pacifique des conflits qui ravagent le monde. L'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies a à maintes reprises, et d'une façon unanime entériné la Trêve Olympique,

challenges ahead. The General Assembly's Resolution 57/337(2003) contains important recommendations in this regard.

Moreover, Greece firmly supports and participates to all disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives aiming at the development of a safer world free of threats from all kinds of weapons, either conventional or weapons of mass destruction.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace and development are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin. Persisting poverty cheats nations out of progress and provides breeding ground for both internal and regional crises.

Four years ago a landmark decision was taken to embark upon a long term global evolution by adopting the Millennium Declaration. We committed ourselves to achieve the goals set by the year 2015. It would be a disgrace to mankind if we don't succeed to bring stable and sustainable development and eradicate hunger and poverty.

However, there are growing indications that despite some progress, we are lagging in fulfilling targets agreed upon. We have to explore collectively new innovative ways of financing development. Particular attention should be paid to the development problems of Africa and of the Small Island States.

In line with the Millennium Declaration, and despite the enormous outlay of resources necessary to finance the Olympic Games and their security, Greece has made a point to increase its development assistance.

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Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A close look in Greece's immediate neighborhood reveals that despite considerable progress made over the last few years, the situation still remains fragile in parts of the western Balkans. Unemployment and the lack of economic perspective are in some cases a social and political time bomb. The situation in Kosovo remains a source of instability.

With the proactive support and involvement of the international community we are working hard to transform the Balkans in a region of democracy, peace, stability and prosperity, focused on a common European future. We believe that genuinely regional initiatives

lead to the deepening of a division of the island or could fail to provide incentives for its reunification. Greece has firmly supported efforts to encourage the Turkish – Cypriot community's econom

