



SLOVENIA

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Address by

H.E. Dr. JANEZ DRNOVŠEK
the President of the Republic of Slovenia

**AT THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

GENERAL DEBATE

New York, 21 September 2004

Mr. President,
Heads of State and Government,
Mr. Secretary Genen4il

In this context we must express our concern at the humanitarian situation in Darfur, and we welcome the efforts of the UN and the international community to seek a way out of the **crisis**.

Mr. President,

The increasingly direct contacts between cultures and civilisations bring new challenges and new opportunities. Let us exploit them for mutual enrichment and the formulation of a common consciousness of humankind. We will be able to do that only with the presumption of radical equality and the tolerant acceptance of plurality in human values. The boundaries of the plurality of these values are delineated by fundamental human rights and freedoms. The UN plays a central part in asserting them internationally. Slovenia welcomes the start of work by the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, and assures her of our full willingness to cooperate. At the same time we express our continued support of the International Criminal Court that represents an important instrument for exercising the rule of law and human rights.

Only a multilateral response to the modern challenges can be effective. Of all the existing organisations, the United Nations is without doubt the most important and most appropriate for seeking suches can be

going beyond the limitations of established bureaucratic frameworks. They can help to create the critical mass of awareness regarding the urgent need for change and removal of global imbalances. By incorporating the contribution of various sections of world society into the work of the UN, we will make it more sensitive to the actual problems of people in different parts of the world. In this context we welcome the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations, since it sets out a range of useful proposals regarding the contribution of non-governmental actors.

Mr. President,

The complexity of modern threats to world peace and security also demand a strengthening of cooperation between various regional organisations and the UN. Here we welcome open debate in the Security Council on this subject. This cooperation is especially welcome where regional intervention can prove to be more rapid and more effective in conflict prevention and in post-conflict peace building. Next year Slovenia will assume the presidency of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in this capacity too we will strive for a further intensification of the good cooperation between the two organisations.

In this spirit the European Union is assuming increasing responsibility for stabilisation and progress in the countries of South Eastern Europe. In the past year we witnessed major progress by some of the countries in the region. At the same time in some places we saw a resurgence of dangers that are created by still unresolved inter-ethnic issues and a lack of socio-economic prospects. Attaining democratic standards, including human rights and the protection of minorities, must remain at the centre of our efforts. At the same time, however, we have to note that some unresolved status questions curb the political and economic consolidation of the region. Thus we will have to devote more attention to resolving these questions.

Mr. President,

Globalisation is erasing geographical boundaries and reducing the physical distances between people. At the same time, however, it is increasing the differences between rich and poor, between those that are sharing in the positive effects of globalisation and those that are being pushed even further to the margins. Frequently we forget that not even those who derive the greatest benefit from globalisation can protect themselves from its negative effects. Not even the richest and most technically advanced of us can isolate ourselves from international terrorism, from the effects of climate change and extreme poverty. For this reason our common commitment and responsibility must be to ensure that the positive effects of globalisation will be attained by all people; and that through our combined powers we will ensure the protection of nature. And we shall only achieve this through the broadest partnership and solidarity. There are more than enough signals that it is now high time for coordinated international action.

Thank you.