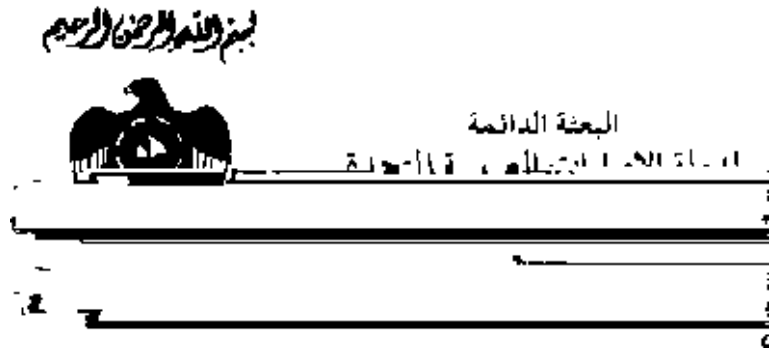


Permanent Mission of the
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
to the United Nations
New York



Statement

by

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before the General Debate
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Mr. President,

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me great pleasure to start my statement by congratulating you and your friendly country, the Gabonese Republic, on your election as President of the fifty-ninth session of this Assembly. Given your skills and experience, we are confident that you will competently and successfully lead our deliberations over the pressing global and regional issues.

On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Julian Robert Hunt for his remarkable contribution in managing the activities of the previous session. It also gives me great pleasure to reiterate our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his tireless efforts in strengthening the leading role of the United Nations, especially in resolving the political conflicts and economic crisis that continue to trouble various regions across the world.

Mr. President,

In spite of the achievements of the last century and its positive impact on liberalization, globalization and freedom, the events which took place during the last few years, including eruption of violence and conflicts in Asia, Africa and some European countries, outbreak of terrorist attacks, and violations to human rights, have limited the ability of peoples to reap the benefits of these achievements to a great extent. Instead of directing the world's efforts towards solving the problems related to poverty, outbreak of epidemics, improvement of sustainable development mechanisms, and strengthening the international relations, as provided in the millennium declaration, the world had to devote a great part of its efforts towards exploring further co-ordinated measures for combating these grave threats which have shaken the underpinnings of international peace and security.

Previous international experiences proved that regional and international multilateral initiatives, built on principals of partnership, justice, transparency and equality among peoples and countries, are capable of addressing these international challenges. We are fully convinced that performance of reforms needed to be made in the existing structures of international relations, especially in the united nations system, has become an important priority, in order to enable its principal organs; the security council, the general assembly and the economic and social council to revitalize their activities, and to shoulder their responsibilities towards maintaining international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Commitment by all countries and governments to discharge their responsibilities in accordance with the principals of the international law, is an essential requirement for enforcement of law, and for avoiding recurrent economic, environmental and security problems. Therefore, the United Arab Emirates, as a full member of the United Nations, is committed to meet its obligations, especially those related to creating friendly relations with the neighboring countries, advancing co-operation in security and economic fields, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries and their right to self determination.

Proceeding from its belief in the value of dialogue, peaceful negotiations, and legal arbitration in settling conflicts and disputes arising among countries, the UAE has pursued a steady and peaceful policy with regard to the question of Iran's occupation of its three islands; Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa The international community is aware of the legal, historical and political grounds of this case as well as all initiatives, contacts and efforts made by the UAE, on various levels, for finding a peaceful solution for Iran's occupation of the above three islands.

The United Arab Emirates is confused about the obstinate position of the Iranian government and its repetitious rejections of peaceful initiatives and endeavors made by the GCC for finding a peaceful solution for our occupied islands. Therefore, we call upon the international community to urge Iran to, either clarify its intentions towards the UAE by entering, unconditionally, into serious bilateral negotiations that ensure restoration of the three occupied islands, their continental shelf and air and economic zones to the full sovereignty of the UAE, or to accept referral of this case to the International Court of Justice for arbitration.

Mr. President,

The regrettable developments taking place in the security front in the Gulf region have created serious challenges to the international community due to the sensitive nature of the region, and emergence of new forms of threats which included terrorist acts, kidnapping, and arbitral killings of dozens of innocent people in various residential areas in Iraq. In this context, the United Arab Emirates declares its strong condemnation of all acts of violence in Iraq which, if not contained, will lead to escalation of tension and instability in the entire region as well as the world. We also affirm our support to Iraq's legitimate endeavors towards completion of arrangements of peaceful transition of authority as soon as possible, and exercising its inalienable right to decide its political future, control its natural resources, rebuild its national institutions, and maintain security on its borders. We also attach great importance to the unity and solidarity of Iraq especially during this critical stage in order to enable it start a new phase where security, stability, and cooperative relations with the neighboring countries as well as the world, prevail.

Mr. President,

Achieving and maintaining security equilibrium in the Middle East and the Gulf region, has become an important priority, which requires development of a comprehensive and non selective policy for building confidence, which is capable of eliminating all existing arsenals of weapons of mass destruction in order to advance the international process of non- proliferation of these weapons. In this context, we look forward

debts, reducing restrictions imposed on their foreign trade and foreign investments, and providing access to modern technologies to be used for peaceful purposes, in order to enable the developing countries to equally share the benefits of globalization.

We also welcome present efforts aiming at establishment of a global fund for combating poverty by year 2015. In this context, we affirm that containment of negative effects of recurring financial and economic crisis, constant flow of assistance, and stability of commodity markets requires advancing negotiations of cooperation and coordination among the north, the south and the regional and international organizations. Also policies pertaining to liberalization of global trade and economy must be redrafted from a developmental perspective, taking into account concerns and needs of the small and developing countries with regard to their right to achieve development, and participate in the international process of decision making, thus allow recovery of their economies, implementation of national programs aiming to diversification of national