



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE

59TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

New York, October 7, 2004

[FINAL TEXT]

Mr. President,

In his Report on the work of the Organisation the Secretary General describes the past year as an extraordinarily challenging year for the United Nations. Our delegation agrees that there have been great difficulties and in the circumstances we should congratulate the Secretary-General for his stewardship and for guiding the Organisation in the implementation of its various mandates. Although there have been mixed results, the overall picture is of an Organisation which has remained engaged and active where the needs have arisen.

For the maintenance of peace and security, the prevailing conditions have not been helpful. The cycle of war and violence regrettably continued unabated, damaging the prospects for stability and peace, while doctrines promoting military power and the use of force and the upsurge of terrorism have served to undermine the fabric of international security.

The conflicts in the Middle East and in Africa have been the most prominent. In Iraq the role of the United Nations has been limited despite the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1546. The Secretary-General has been justifiably cautious as the prevailing security situation has made it too risky for a more ambitious programme for United Nations involvement. The major responsibility will lie in the hands of the coalition forces to rebuild Iraq. In the meantime, efforts will have to concentrate on establishing a political framework for ensuring stability and security. Until that is achieved it is difficult to see how the UN role could be enlarged.

In the Middle East the situation has continued to deteriorate over the past year, and events have confirmed the need for a more even-handed approach which is needed to advance towards a settlement based on justice and legality. Judging from the events of the past year the Quartet has not been fulfilling that role and exercising the influence which is needed.

In Africa there have been some positive developments over the year but the recent outbreaks in Darfur in Sudan has led to a new crisis. We commend the Secretary-General for his efforts and welcome the collaboration that has developed with the African Union in seeking a solution.

In other areas of tension and conflict, it is quite evident that the United Nations has been active and we congratulate the Secretary-General for his quiet diplomacy which has helped to avoid the outbreak of hostilities, to promote reconciliations and to encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The work of the United Nations peace keepers and peace builders has continued to multiply with a total of 16 Missions now in the field with the addition of those in Haiti, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Burundi. Obviously, the growing number and the scale of these operations pose a challenge to the Organisation's capacity to providing sustainable support for such operations.

What is of utmost importance is to ensure that there is an exit strategy which can be implemented without risking a relapse into conflict. National recovery and assistance in strengthening the social and economic underpinnings of war-torn societies continue to be necessary to ensure the durability of peace and stability.

We are still hopeful about the situation in Haiti but anxieties have increased because of the unsettled security situation, political uncertainties and setbacks caused by the hurricane disaster.

We believe that more urgency should be introduced in mobilising the resources from the \$1.3 billion package of pledges to towards political, social and economic needs. As far as the political situation is concerned while we do not fully share the Secretary-General's assessment in paragraph 58 of his Report, we support his insistence on the need for the United Nations to remain engaged for the long-term both politically and financially.

In the field of disarmament there is a clear need to revitalise the Conference of Disarmament whose work has stalled in an atmosphere of weakened political commitment to disarmament efforts. The growth of military expenditure and promotion of militarism has undermined the political will to move forward. This contributes to more proliferation. A non-proliferation regime can only succeed where mutual and reciprocal obligations are honoured and where the principle of non-discrimination is upheld.

The dangers of proliferation are increased by the upsurge terrorism in recent times. We all have an obligation to confront this challenge but our view remains that too much emphasis is being place on military operations. Our view is that a successful campaign requires also a more serious effort to eliminate the root causes of terrorism. Circumstances of injustice, deprivation or oppression which are conducive to the development of extremist ideas and activities require our full attention.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General in his Statement on 21st September, rightly emphasised the importance of the rule of law which is increasingly at risk around the world. At the national level it is an important aspect in the stability and survival of states. Similarly for the world order. The Organisation has created an important body of norms and laws and it is the duty of all states to uphold legality in international relations. This applies to all.

The United Nations should never accept or tolerate double standards, selectivity or discriminatory practices. These violate principles of justice and equal rights which is an important basis for co-operation and stability in the international system.

Mr. President,

In the area of humanitarian commitments the work and achievements of the United Nations over the past year have been solid and

commendable. The Report shows amply how much has been accomplished in relation to assistance to refugees and for relief during humanitarian emergencies.

Obviously, not all needs have been met since, as the Secretary-General tells us, the Organisation has been operating in a situation of under-funding which persisted for the year. We are disappointed to learn that both in absolute and proportional terms funding was lower for the same period in 2003. We support the Secretary-General's initiatives to promote and secure greater resources so that hardship and suffering can be reduced, especially among the vulnerable groups.

Mr. President

The work of the United Nations in promoting development cooperation is of particular importance to developing countries. The work done by the various agencies in operational activities has been an important source of development assistance, and we urge that as much resources as are available be deployed in implementing concrete projects and programmes. They should avoid excessive preoccupation with designing frameworks and integrated systems which increase the bureaucratic component and reduce the resources available for programme delivery.

From reading the Report, we feel that there is need to give some greater stimulus to efforts for sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Regrettably, there are signs that these may be increasingly overshadowed by the preoccupation with terrorism and security issues.

We particularly hope that the United Nations will give special attention to the special needs of the disadvantaged, the least development countries, the land-locked states and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In the case of the latter, the review of the Barbados Programme of Action which has been postponed to early next year should receive the full support of the Secretariat in ensuring that the conference and its outcome will bring positive benefits.

Mr. President,

In general, Jamaica believes that in the area of international economic co-operation more needs to be done by the United Nations in the co-ordination of international policies and there is need for institutional strengthening for this purpose. A democratic forum is needed to co-ordinate international policies affecting finance, trade, technology and which is capable of applying remedies to correct global imbalances and respond to crises. We should regard this as an important part of what should be the outcome of the Summit during the 60th Session.

Mr. President,

The international legal order has continued to evolve in a positive direction with the creation of new legal regimes, but the problem of gaining universality has dampened some of its success. These instruments of international co-operation are important in strengthening multilateralism and all should join in. In the case of the ICC and the International Tribunal, it is important for the integrity of the system that war crimes are not seen as being aimed only at perpetrators in developing countries. To have credibility it should apply to everyone and the system is weakened where exceptions are allowed. This principle applies more broadly to the field of human rights protection and would be unfortunate for the system within the United Nations if the same standards do not apply to all.

Regrettably, cases have arisen leading to charges of selective treatment and double standards. This is damaging to the image of the UN. The Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and the Commission of Human Rights should be vigilant in maintaining uniform standards and equal requirements and should avoid the kind of politicisation which weakens the influence of the UN in promotion of Human Rights.

Mr. President,

In relation to management of the Secretariat, we commend the Secretary-General for the reforms implemented since 1997 which have

progressed reasonably well with the introduction of management practices to improve the effectiveness of the system.

The two-year budget cycle is now in place and we are looking forward to receiving the first proposed strategic framework for the Biennium 2006/2007 which will be submitted during this session.

Mr. President,

We understand that the Secretary-General is seeking a larger and even more substantive programme of reform based on the recommendations of The Panel of Eminent Persons which is expected to be submitted to the Secretary-General later this year. We hope this report will form a sound basis for reform and revitalisation of the United Nations to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

We will be ready to consider the Report and recommendations and will make our contribution when they are laid before us.

Thank you, Mr. President.