



**The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison
and International Cooperation**

Speech by

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&
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**Delivered before
the Sixty-First Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 25 September 2006

(Please check against delivery)

In the Name of Allah The Most Compassionate The Most Merciful

Madame President,

My country's delegation has already expressed our congratulations to you on your assumption of this high position, but I would like also to affirm to you the confidence of my country's delegation in your capability to undertake this task and lead our deliberations to achieve the best results.

I wish also to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to the manner in which your predecessor, Mr. Jan Eliasson, the foreign minister of Sweden, administered the work of the General assembly in its previous session.

I would like also to reiterate our gratitude to the efforts exerted by Mr. Kofi Anan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, to advance the process of UN reform and the fulfillment of the goals embodied in its Charter.

Madame President,

Our efforts were focused last year on the process of UN reform. Some progress has indeed been achieved as we established the Council of Human Rights and the Peace-Building Commission. However, the reform march has still a long way to go, and any reform process that does not include the Security Council and enhance the role of the General Assembly will be of little value and does not meet the expectations of our peoples.

Unfortunately our quest for the reform of the Security Council has coincided with increased incursions by the Security Council on the prerogatives of the General Assembly, guaranteed to it by the Charter. It is, therefore, necessary for the General Assembly to take immediate action which prevents the Security Council from usurping its authorities.

We seize this occasion to call on the permanent members of the Security Council not to hamper the reform efforts and to open up the field for a real reform of the UN. Such reform will place the power of decision making in the hands of all members, i.e. the General Assembly in which all states have equal voting powers. The Security Council will become an executive tool for the implementation of the decisions of the General assembly. We can thus overcome the current situation in which the Security

Council has become a domineering and inequitable body which applies double standards, lacks democracy, and allows for the abuse of the Veto prerogative.

History stands witness that the Security Council has never achieved peace and security in the world. On the contrary, it has served as a tool for aggression and wars, as well as the curtailment of peace mechanisms. Therefore, it is necessary that the decisions of the General Assembly, in which all the peoples of the world are represented, be the ones which pertain to peace and war, and that the application of the seventh chapter of the Charter be exclusively the right of the General Assembly. The Security Council, with its limited membership, cannot be entrusted with those grave decisions.

If we could not achieve that, we must find a new formula for the permanent membership of the Security Council. This membership should be given to geographical groups, rather than to specific countries. We, therefore, demand that the African Union be granted permanent membership as the African continent is the only continent deprived of such permanent membership in the Security Council.

Three decades ago, Libya called for the abolishment of the Veto prerogative. It submitted draft resolutions in this respect to the thirty fourth session of the General Assembly, and the six sessions which followed it. Libya realizes that this prerogative granted to the permanent members constitutes the greatest obstacle preventing the Council from fulfilling its tasks. Libya, therefore, renews its call for the abolishment of the Veto prerogative and urges the General Assembly to take the necessary steps to restrict its use until it is finally abolished.

Within the framework of the current consultations on the reform of the Security Council, we affirm Libya's adherence to the common African position issued by the Fifth African Summit Conference held in Sirt on the 4th and 5th of July 2005, and confirmed by the Special Summit Conference of the African Union held in Addis Ababa on the 4th of August 2005.

Madame President,

The maintenance of international peace and security is a noble goal that the UN seeks to achieve. Undoubtedly, total and complete disarmament, starting with weapons of mass destruction, constitutes an essential component for the achievement of this goal. However; this cannot be

attained unless all member states cooperate in good faith in a fully transparent manner.

Libya has voluntarily discarded all its programmes related to weapons of mass destruction. It has expressed its hope that all states in possession of weapons of mass destruction, or programmes for such weapons, will follow its example.

When talking about weapons of mass destruction and nuclear non-proliferation, we must not confuse these issues with programmes aiming at the peaceful uses of nuclear power. International law ensures the right of all states to conduct research and develop their capabilities in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear power. Libya strongly rejects the use of double standards when dealing with this issue and condemns discrimination between one state and another in the pursuit of non-nuclear proliferation.

Madame President,

The establishment of a Peace-Building Commission is an important step towards the prevalence of peace in the countries emerging from conflicts. We hope we shall soon see the achievements of this new body in Africa where the African Union has been able, with assistance from the international community, to restore peace in several African countries. African people look forward to the assistance of the UN in the consolidation of peace in order to embark on the implementation of development programmes and combat poverty, diseases, and illiteracy.

Madame President,

Terrorism is a phenomenon which threatens international peace and security. Such a threat cannot be faced by individual acts by a single state, or group of states. Furthermore, it is a problem that cannot be resolved by attributing it to a certain religion or nationality. It is also shameful and unacceptable to describe the legitimate struggle of people against foreign occupation as an act of "terrorism".

Libya was among the first states which called for the coordination of the international endeavor against international terrorism. It called, fifteen years ago, for the convening of a special session by the General Assembly to study this phenomenon and develop measures to combat it and eradicate its root causes. It is high time to respond to this call so that we can coordinate our efforts, under the UN umbrella, to study this phenomenon and reach a

definition for terrorism which distinguishes between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination and independence.

Madame President,

The change of the human rights commission into a human rights council reflects the great attention given by the international community to the enforcement of human rights and guaranteeing basic freedoms. We hope that the inception of this council's work will constitute a beginning towards addressing the issues impartially and indiscriminately, free from selectivity and double standards. We hope that human rights issues will not be used as a means of pressure against small nations. We emphasize that the attempts made by some states to use human rights protection as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of other states will only lead to the destabilization of peace and security, and will bring more problems, rather than solve the outstanding ones.

Madame President,

Sustainable development constitutes a major challenge facing developing countries. It is incumbent on the UN to establish an international partnership for development which aims to achieve the Millennium Goals, based on the stimulation of dialogue between North and South, within the framework of respect for sovereignty, equality, and benefits share, and which guarantees the achievement of the agreed goal of allocating (0.7%) of the GNP of developed countries as assistance to developing countries. Furthermore, such partnership should guarantee the appropriate application of all principles of free multi-lateral trade and the enforcement of all measures related special and preferential treatment for developing countries, within the framework of International Trade Organization, including the facilitation of the accession of developing countries to this organization.

Countries with a colonial past bear the greatest responsibility for assisting the developing countries as compensation for the damage caused to these countries during the colonial period. Big countries which waged wars on the territories of developing countries must bear their responsibility for demining and removal of explosive remnants left in those countries. They should begin immediately in the provision of maps, as well as the necessary technical equipment, for the rehabilitation of the affected lands in some of the developing countries.

Madame President,

The massacres and repression to which the occupation forces in occupied Palestine subject the Palestinian people, as well as the flagrant violations of human rights, confirm that the so-called peace march is but a mirage which will not yield any results, particularly given the inability of the Security Council to take any action to protect the Palestinian people and compel the occupation force to respect its commitments and stop its aggression and crimes against the Palestinian people. Libya, therefore, reiterates its emphasis that any proposed solutions which seek to impose the status quo will not resolve the Palestinian question, nor will it provide peace for the area. The only solution which can achieve that is to guarantee the return of all Palestinian refugees to their lands and to establish a democratic state on the land of historical Palestine in which Arabs and Jews live on equal footing, similar to South Africa, where blacks and whites managed to coexist after decades of conflict and blood shed. Unless that is achieved, the region will continue to live in a state of conflict, in which no one will enjoy any peace or security.

The recent Israeli aggression on Lebanon and its targeting of the infrastructure and civilians of that small country emphasize the need for urgent action to compel the occupation forces to withdraw from the Shebaa Farms and their return to Lebanon, as well as withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan heights and its return to Syria and obliging the Israelis to pay compensations for the damage they caused to this country because of their brutal aggression.

The situation in brotherly Iraq is cause for much sadness .It is, in fact, a catastrophe brought about by the occupation which left behind tens of thousands of dead people and hundreds of thousands of wounded and handicapped persons. No matter how optimistic we may be, this catastrophic situation will not end as long as there are occupation forces in the country which feed divisions inside the Iraqi society and encourage sectarianism in the government institutions. We believe it is high time to stop the blood shed in Iraq and find a solution to end the crisis, which guarantees that all Iraqis enjoy peace and security, as well as their basic rights, inside a unified and democratic Iraq, with full sovereignty, free from foreign forces and bases.

Thank you, Madame President