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The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management

27 September 2007

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

To: Mr.Vijay K. Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet
EOSG

From: Shaaban M. Shaaban

Subject: DGACM General Debate Synopsis

It is my pleasure to share with you DGACM's synopsis of the second day of the General Debate, 26 September. We hope that it will prove of use and interest to you. Further such synopses will be prepared by us, and forwarded to you, throughout the remaining days of the Debate.

Kind regards.

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POINTS COVERED IN THE GENERAL DEBATE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

In the **55** interventions made thus far (28 today), mention was made of:

▪ MDGs	by a total of 36 speakers	19 today
▪ ODA/FfD	21	8
▪ Trade/Debt	24	10
▪ Education	17	8
▪ Gender/Women/Children	19	10
▪ Health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis	19	10
▪ Environment environmental governance	30	14
▪ Migration	5	2
▪ LDCs	7	5
▪ Special needs of Africa	21	10
▪ Climate Change Adaptation	38	20
▪ Climate Change Mitigation	18	8
▪ Climate Change Technology	10	4
▪ Climate Change Financing	7	3
▪ Kyoto/Bali	14	10
▪ PBC	7	3
▪ Peacekeeping/-making	16	10
▪ Drug Trafficking/Crime	4	1
▪ Armed Conflicts	16	8
▪ Terrorism	23	9
▪ Disarmament/non-proliferation/WMD/SALW	24	8
▪ R2P	3	2
▪ Rule of Law/ICC/ICJ	18	11
▪ Human Rights	24	11
▪ HRC	11	4
▪ Management Reform	32	18
▪ Security Council Reform	25	13
▪ GA revitalization	10	7
▪ ECOSOC Reform	5	5

Salient remarks included the following:

Morning

Latvia:

- Urged "the international community [to] bring to justice those who have committed war crimes and massive violations of human rights.
- "…[C]ommend[ed] the work of the ICC" and hoped that the PBC can be "an effective tool for consolidating long-term peace".
- "Even where military conflict is not a factor, human security in many parts of the world is undermined by poverty, hunger and disease".
- "…[S]upport[ed] the calls to review progress towards the MDGs and accelerate action.
- "…[R]egret[ted] that the reform process launched at the 2005 World Summit has been slow and uneven" and "…recognize[d] the forces that [made] the reform so difficult", but urged all to "not give in to fatigue and frustration".
- "Management reform is vital".
- Lamented that "the beginnings of the new HRC were a cause for concern" but was "confident that after making important decisions on institution-building earlier this year, the Member States will take full advantage of the HRC.
- "…[W]elcome[d] the prospect of intergovernmental negotiations beginning in the current session and hope[d] that they will bring early positive results".

Switzerland:

- "… Respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance are the prerequisites for lasting peace and security and a protected environment
- Urged all to "develop alliances based on shared values" and "support[ed] such initiatives as the "Alliance of Civilisations".
- "…[H]ope[d] that we will succeed in setting ourselves ambitious objectives for Stage Two of the Kyoto Protocol" and stood "ready to make a substantial contribution to this effort".
- On the operations of the IFIs, stated that "unfortunately …the System remain[ed] fragmented and the transaction costs - borne to a great extent by the beneficiary countries themselves – [were] very high".
- "…[A]dvocate[d] [for] a general improvement in the SC's working methods".
- "Welcome[d] the decision of the SG to make the efficiency of the UN System one of his priorities.

Mauritania:

- Stated that current economic and social conditions, as well as injustice, were factors that continued to "fuel many pockets of tension and conflict and encouraged extremism and terrorism".
- Appreciated the efforts under taken by various actors, including the SG and regional organizations, in partnership with the UN, to address armed conflict situations around the world.

- Underscored that the responsibility for setting the national development agenda rested with each nation individually.

Finland:

- "We must sustain our efforts to make the [HRC] a credible institution - capable of defending and promoting globally the human rights of women, men and children".
- "The Peacebuilding Fund must be used as an effective tool to respond to the immediate needs of post-conflict countries".
- "…[S]trongly support[ed] the recommendations of the SG's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence" and stated that "the objective of "one UN at country level" is worth striving for".
- Stated that there was a "need to take decisive measures to promote gender awareness across the entire UN system" and "support[ed] the proposal to set up a new, consolidated gender agency and [a] new USG position as its head".
- "Highlight[ed] the necessity to reach, as soon as possible, a globally inclusive agreement on the post-2012 climate regime" and underscored this by stating that "the UN has a central role to play in this process".
- Called for "efficient international cooperation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation" and highlighted the situation of SALW.

Turkmenistan:

- "Notwithstanding the current world changes, it is the great humanist ideals of the UN, the principles of the Charter of the UN that should continue to serve as the moral and legal pillar of the international order. Only on this basis can the issues of UN reform be considered."
- Shared the view that it is necessary further to improve the structure of the SC, to develop closer and more effective interaction between it and the GA.
- Emphasized its support for international efforts to combat proliferation of WMDs, their delivery systems, and related technologies.
- Welcomed the SG's efforts to promote and develop broad international cooperation with view to finding a comprehensive solution to the global problem of environmental protection.
- Reaffirmed its commitment to the goals of the Kyoto Protocol.

Lithuania:

- "Welcome[d] the focus made by the SG on climate change as a global challenge that require[ed] global concerted efforts …[and] believe[d] that the UN climate change process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action to this effect."
- "[Was] convinced that the world need[ed] a more coherent and inclusive system of international environmental governance. This system need[ed] to be strengthened by establishing a UNEO, based on UNEP, with a revised mandate."
- Argued that some conflicts in the world were less visible, but not less dangerous, and emphasized that those "frozen conflicts" may become "very hot" one day

unless the international community act[ed] immediately and [did] not stay indifferent to [them]".

- Applauded the SG for his bold and forward-looking vision of the reform in UN peace-keeping and welcomed all efforts by the UN to streamline and reform the peace-keeping procurement system.
- "The prevention of nuclear proliferation and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with the [NPT] are crucial for global peace and security. We need to strengthen the authority of the [NPT]."
- Stated that "the principle of Responsibility to Protect can no longer be confined to paper" and "encourage[d] the SG to follow up on the World Summit Document and take measures to operationalise this principle."

Zambia:

- "Agree[d] with the recommendation of the High-Level Panel on the UN system-wide coherence that the UN urgently needs more coherence and synergy …[to] enable it to perform as one and to use its unique universality, neutrality and capacity to operate effectively."
- Stated that collaboration of the UN with the IFIs and the WTO should further be enhanced and welcomed the work going on in this area.
- On SC reform, argued that this vital organ should seriously consider Africa's call to have two permanent seats with full veto power. Further argued that Africa would rather prefer to do away with the veto altogether, but since others insisted to keep it, Africa should have it as well.
- "The problem of Climate Change is a global issue requiring global action within the multilateral context of the UN."
- "While placing emphasis on adaptation, we also pledge to reduce emissions from industrial and other sources. We call upon industrialized countries, who have a history of producing these emissions, to take serious steps to reduce them."
- "Called for all ODA to be delivered in a more efficient manner in accordance with the Paris declaration."

El Salvador:

- Reiterated the necessity to respect fully the human rights of migrants and their families.
- Welcomed the efforts made by UN member states to adopt the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- Appealed to the oil-producing countries to try to implement a flexible mechanism so that prices of oil will not drastically affect developing countries. Also argued that this issue cannot be overlooked at the UN, since this would mean bankruptcy for countries depending on oil.

Botswana:

- Called for immediate action on climate change.
- Criticised the wasted money spent on war and WMDs, instead of on fighting poverty and hunger.
- Supported continued process of reform within the UN with a focus on SC reform.

- Called for more funds for peace building and for the care of refugees.
- Emphasised the importance of the international community supporting democracy in the developing world.
- Stated that "…sustainable development has to be nationally owned" but also that "continued assistance is necessary …includ[ing] private sector development, private investment, and access to technology".

Haiti:

- Welcomed the SC extension of the UN's mandate for Haiti.
- "Continued to see the presence of armed forces on their soil as a wound, with respect to [its] national sovereignty" but also acknowledged that "in practical terms, this is the only formula that is realistic and available at this time to restore freedom and to live in peace".
- Stated that drug trafficking "pose[d] a serious threat to its sovereignty and security" but acknowledged that it cannot deal with this scourge alone.

Cote D'Ivoire:

- Exalted the virtues of holding democratic elections through an electoral process.

Sao Tome and Principe:

- "…[C]all[ed] to defeat terrorist extremism everywhere" but argued that "this will not be achieved by military force, but by ideas and ideals that win hearts and minds".
- "In many countries, children are not even given a name until they are one month old because so any of them do not live that long".
- With regard to the "rising tide of globalization" it stated that "in many parts of the world lifted the yachts and swamped the rowboats".
- Urged for the need to "be real with the results of aid" as "it seem[ed] the international organizations sometimes suffer from a poverty of expectations".
- "…The humiliation of poverty actually scorches the heart and creates despair".
- "Many say that Africa is poor because of bad governance and corruption. I strongly reject that view."

Iraq:

- Supported freedom of association and of the press and of democracy.
- Identified the threat of terrorism as the most dangerous threat to the modern world.
- Continually called for disarmament. "Partnership and achieving peace, stability and prosperity require reinforcing the cooperative efforts of all countries of the world".
- Emphasised the interdependence of the world and the fact that instability in one region means instability throughout the world.
- "We are in support of having the UN play an active part on the international scene, solving crises through peaceful methods"

Cuba:

- On the threat of climate change, "action must be taken, and quickly, and the developed countries have the moral duty and the historic responsibility to set the example and spearhead the effort".
- However, placed the threat of the "so-called regime change in countries that are unilaterally labeled as rogue States", as the "most serious threat to peace and security in the world".
- Argued that, in fact, there has been no progress on the MDGs, supported with extensive figures.
- Stated that resources should be spent on issues such as education instead of weapons and war.
- Questioned the motivation of the developed world to achieve MDGs. "Let the commitment of setting aside 0.7% of GDP as ODA be fulfilled once and for all".
- "Let the foreign debt be cancelled." Argued that international debt stands in the way of development, along with agricultural subsidies that specifically hinder rural development.
- Called for increased influence for the GA which is the most democratic tool of the UN.
- Also sought a reduction in the power of the SC.
- Called for a fair and influential HRC.
- Argued that trade embargos and blockades are unfair and stand in the way of development.

Afternoon

Swaziland:

- "The UN should continue …shaping situations for the betterment of the lives of all the peoples of the world. If it is to succeed, there is a need for the UN to reform the main bodies, namely the revitalization of the [GA], ECOSOC and the [SC]."
- "…[H]ope[d] that as the WTO rules come into force there shall be considerations to ensure that all developing countries meet WTO standards".
- "HIV/AIDS and other health problems remain as some of the major challenges that we face as developing nations."
- On Climate Change, noted that "there is a general need for favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular from developed countries to developing countries, through supportive measures that promote technology cooperation and that should enable the transfer of necessary technological know-how as well as building up of economic, technical, and managerial capabilities for the efficient use and further development of transferred technology."
- Applauded UNDP for its efforts to prevent armed violence through its contribution to the disarmament and development agenda by promoting and participating in a number of policy oriented initiatives.

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- "[O]nly a strong UN could be an efficient instrument in regulating international relations and in accordance with the UN Charter and international law."
- "[Was] certain that by strengthening multilateralism, the UN can produce efficient armed conflict prevention measures."
- Highlighted the crucial importance of effective and timely action on the issue of climate change within the Organization.
- Recognized the enormous threat that nuclear, chemical and biological weapons present to peace, especially if in the possession of terrorists, and reaffirmed its will to take significant steps towards absolute controls over preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mozambique:

- "Commend[ed] the selection of the theme on climate change as the main discussion topic for this session, as it [was] an urgent and important issue for our countries and for the future of our planet".
- Hoped that the Bali Conference will "build consensus on future actions, including concrete targets aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions, as well as a post-Kyoto agreement to bind all nations".
- "Advocate[d] [for] the strengthening of the Financial Arrangement for Global Environment within the UN System [and…] encourage[d] the UN to enhance its institutional capacity and resources to better assist Member States to incorporate adequate environmental policies in their national development strategies".
- Called for "special attention [to] be given to developing countries with limited resources to fund their national capacity-building to deal with climate change related issues".

Cyprus:

- Suggested that there was "overwhelmingly convincing evidence suggesting that world climate is changing at the detriment of human and ecological systems as a result of human activity. Thus, our response to this alarming phenomenon should be the focus of our debate rather than the extent to which it exists".
- Further stated on climate change that, "we must account not only for the future environmental impact, should current trends continue, but also evaluate the projected consequences in other areas likely to he adversely affected such as security and development".
- "In deciding and enforcing our response, we see no plausible framework other than the United Nations. Aside from its unique position to address the issue because of its global character, its success in confronting a threat with such massive potential as climate change will be a litmus test for the relevance of our Organisation".

Madagascar:

- Identified two issues: climate change and development in the developing world. Underlined the urgency for action on climate change, especially the use of new technologies.
- Linked poverty and the environment, "many bushfires are the result of poverty, and the destruction of the natural resources increases poverty".
- Argued that more needs to be done by developed countries in order for the MDGs to be reached in the developing world.

Nigeria:

- "The African continent is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."
- Applauded "the successful outcome of the High Level Event on Climate Change [...but] affirm[ed] that much more need[ed] to be done".
- "Appreciate[d] the financial and material assistance from [its] development partners in this regard, but [its] continent crie[d] out for even more intensified collective efforts at ridding Africa of this and other pandemics".
- "Recognize[d] that the primary responsibility for social and economic development rests with individual States".
- "What Africa seeks from the international community is genuine partnership for economic development ...more specifically, Africa requires massive, focused foreign investment in the infrastructural development across the continent".
- On SC reform, stated that "the situation whereby Africa is itself totally excluded from the permanent membership of the Council is unfair and untenable and must be rectified".

Georgia:

- "Man's inhumanity to man is not only perpetrated by the vitriolic actions of those who are bad. It is also perpetrated by the vitiating inaction of those who are good."

Zimbabwe:

- Identified climate change as a top priority and underlined the urgency for action.
- Called for justice for developing countries and reasonable action from the developed world.
- "...[C]hallenges to the authority of the UN and its Charter underpin our repeated call for the revitalisation of the GA; ...the GA should be more active in all areas including those of peace and security".
- "...[R]eiterate[d]...that the SC as presently constituted is not democratic".
- Called for the UN not to 'interfere' with internal matters of sovereign states.
- Called for fairness in the behaviour of developed nations on issues of human rights.

Bolivia:

- "We talk about global warming but we don't talk about where it comes from. I am convinced it comes from…globalization, selective globalization".
- "I think the decolonization of the UN is something that should also begin".
- Thanked states that supported the adoption of the Declaration for Indigenous Peoples and called on the UN to organize a world forum for indigenous peoples.

Czech Republic:

- "Consider[ed] the UN to be an extremely important and in fact irreplaceable platform […and noted that] the ambition of the UN is not, and should never be, searching for one obligatory, unitary view imposed by some of us on those who disagree."
- "Support[ed] the UN reform because this organization should reflect the current situation in the world more than the situation of the era when the UN was founded. Some changes are inevitable and we should discuss them seriously."
- "We should support meaningful activities, not programs which in effect put constraints on local development. We should use natural resources efficiently and protect the environment, but not in a way that restricts human activity and harms economic development. We would help global development more by reducing barriers than by providing more conditional aid."
- "…[W]arned against the unjustified alarmism of global warming activists and their fellow-travelers in some governments and international organizations, but even this potential problem, as well as any other, can never be solved without relying on freedom, free markets, free trade and other attributes of free society."

Ecuador:

- Argued that "the first limitation of the MDGs rests on the fact that, as strategy to diminish poverty, they represent a minimum framework" and stated that it "cannot be content with reaching minimum objectives…".
- "It is not by chance that the World Bank always elaborates "poverty reports" and has never thought of publishing "inequality reports"".
- "The best strategy to reduce poverty levels with dignity is to shorten social, economic, territorial, environmental and cultural gap differences."

Poland:

- Discussed the issue of climate change but recognized that there are two sides of the debate and remained neutral on the causes of climate change.
- Called for the sharing of technologies to enable clean development.
- Called for greater encouragement of forestation programmes.
- Supported UN system reform.
- Stressed that "global agreement concerning actions for sustainable global development as its top priority".

Norway:

- Identified climate change as the primary threat facing the world and called for "a comprehensive post-Kyoto agreement". Placed more responsibility on developed nations to act.
- Argued that strong incentives need to be offered to the private sector to act on climate change and argued for the expansion of the carbon market.
- On MDGs, said more was to be done especially in health. "We must organise and finance survival".
- Called for "One UN" modernisation of the organisation so it can "live up to its potential".

Malta:

- "Believe[d] that the issue of climate change and its repercussions must be addressed in a more cohesive and concerted manner among all the international institutions and organizations".
- "Believe[d] that the UN should establish a mechanism, through the GA, which will report on the activities in the field of climate change throughout the past 20 years and propose elements of a possible future global strategy which avoids the current fragmented approach and takes special account of the needs of small Island States".
- "The environment is our common area, our common heritage, and as such it is our global concern. As United Nations Member States, we must work together to ensure that this precious 'possession' is protected and enhanced".
- "Intend[ed] to work with the UN and the States Party to the Rome Statute, to ensure that the ICC strengthen[ed] its tools in the administration of justice, reconciliation and in the promotion of the rule of law and democracy".
- "Hope[d] that the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development held last year and the follow-up meetings would continue to find support in establishing a comprehensive institutional and holistic response to international migration based on solidarity, respect for human dignity and responsibility-sharing.

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