



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations

Shqip

English



Statement delivered by Mr. Ervin NINA, DPR of Albania -Security Council Debate on the respect to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter

Security Council Open Debate on the respect to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as key element for the maintenance of International peace and security

15 February 2016

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me first to thank you for organizing this open debate on the respect to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and for the interesting concept note in preparing it. Albania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

As rightly pointed out in your concept note, the United Nations emerged from the ashes of the World War II with a firm promise. Nothing indeed could have been nobler in 1945 as it is today, than the common ideals enshrined in the Charter of the organization, among which notably – “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.”

We further concur with your assessment that throughout its history the United Nations has registered significant achievements as regards peace, security and international cooperation.

Indeed, there has been immense progress during the seven decades of the UN existence, progress that has brought real change. Undeniably, the UN has worked for and greatly contributed to a transformed and a better world we live in today.

It has brought into life, inter alia, the vast issue of human rights, enshrined in the preamble of the Charter – “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small” - almost inexistent before the founding of the UN.

It represents the basis of the very important core treaties - 50th anniversary we mark this year; the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The failure to fulfil the so called “firm promise” of the UN - to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war - has also been constant. The solemn “Never Again” pledge has been repeated too often, and manmade tragedies keep repeating, challenging the belief in humanity’s capacity to learn from its failures.

Over the last seventy years the Charter has not always been implemented in the manner that a literal reading of the text might suggest, even though since the end of the Cold War we have seen its reinvigoration.

Millions of people across the world have had no other choice than - water down their illusions faced with wars, atrocities massive human rights violations from which the United Nations has solemnly pledged to save the succeeding generations.

Important recommendations on several situations from the General Assembly and other UN mechanisms, have, most regrettably, not been referred to the ICC.

Mr. President,

We have entered an era in which armed conflicts are greater in complexity and numbers of actors, broader in tactics and weapons used and, above all, more atrocious in the human suffering they cause. The response by the international community should also be adapted to the new reality and the challenges we all face.

Increasingly, the international system is beginning to reach these more remote areas of social and political change, but the UN's mechanisms were not originally designed to focus on them. It is therefore imperative to adapt the UN to allow a more active response to political and humanitarian abuses.

In 2005, sixty years after its foundation, the UN World Summit provided an opportunity to reform the UN to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The RtoP in particular has catalyzed important developments during the last 10-years. Progress has been made in building a global political consensus around RtoP, as a very practical and effective framework for preventing mass atrocity crimes.

Developing the norm alone does not provide for prevention or protection. The growing support for the normative framework should be matched with the necessary political will, and most importantly resources to prevent atrocity crimes. The rise of violent extremism and non-state armed groups perpetrating atrocities, particularly against ethnic and religious minorities, continues to be one of the most pressing challenges, and it must be defeated.

Mr. President,

Only recently, on the occasion of sixty years of UN membership, Albania reaffirmed, once again, its full commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and its firm belief in effective multilateralism and international cooperation as the best means to respond to old and new threats and the challenges of our time.

The UN charter has tasked Security Council, as the body responsible for peace and security, to act swiftly and resolutely when countries are confronted with situations of mass atrocity, grave human rights violations, when states are at risk of experiencing genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

We unfortunately know only too well, what happens when the Council fails to live up to its responsibilities.

The use of veto in such cases betrays the trust of millions of people for whom the UN is the only hope; it openly despises victims; it empowers dictators and other serious human rights offenders and undermines international efforts for ending impunity.

In this respect, Albania wishes to reiterate its strong supports for the French proposal and the efforts of ACT for a "code of conduct" regarding the refrain in the use of veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

In concluding, Mr. President, allow me to go back where it all began, to the noble idea – "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". – in order to remind us that the authority and the legitimacy vested in the Security Council "to maintain or restore international peace and security" - has no precedent in international relations and the Council must be up to its responsibility and world confidence to fully uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter.

Discussions this year on the draft text on the Responsibility to Protect will offer us yet again an opportunity to renew and further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit towards ensuring adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you Mr. President.



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