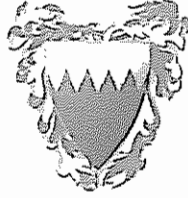


Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain
to the United Nations - New York

البعثة الدائمة لمملكة البحرين
لدى الأمم المتحدة - نيويورك



Addressed by

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa

Minister of Foreign Affairs

At the 65th session of the

United Nations General Assembly

New York, 27 September 2010

Check Against Delivery

*In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful.
May Peace and Allah's blessings be upon you.*

Mr. President,

It gives me pleasure, at the outset, to convey to you the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, and His Majesty's best wishes of success. I also congratulate Your Excellency on your election as President of the General Assembly and thank H.E. Dr. Ali Abdulssalam Treiki, President of the last session for his skillful management of its deliberation. I also commend the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for his contribution in the service of the international cause.

Mr. President,

We all know that the United Nations has, since its inception, scored many successes in promoting collective international action. It has undertaken a great number of initiatives and conceived many ideas beneficial to humanity including, inter alia, the innovative Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Today, we view these goals as being the principal issue on which we all agree. I shall therefore touch on the challenges facing humanity in various fields, be it in the settlement of differences among states or the realization of their peoples' aspirations. In so doing, I will highlight some of the achievements which, incrementally, can serve the common good.

Most important among the challenges facing our world is the attainment of the MDGs by the year 2015. We know that many among us have exerted huge and outstanding efforts

to that end. In this context, the Kingdom of Bahrain has a leading position notably in the field of social welfare, the provision of free quality basic education, healthcare, improvement of child and mother health, empowerment of women, gender equality, the expansion of the social safety net for the poorest of the population, the "Insurance against Unemployment" scheme, and the expansion of the scope of vocational training aimed at enhancing Bahrain's human resources.

Mr. President,

I am honored to stand here before you as a representative of a country actively pursuing its international responsibilities. When we refer to the notion of a "modern state" as being the most important political, social, cultural, and economic product of the modern history of the Kingdom of Bahrain, it is because whatever achievements have been realized are attributed to good governance that has encouraged and supported initiatives and visions aimed at building the institutions and capacities capable of enhancing the principles of a modern, organized society. Such a society is faithful to its values in all domains, based on the predominance of institutions that guarantee to all citizens the opportunity to create, to innovate and to be an active participant in our contemporary world.

The Economic Vision 2030 for Bahrain, launched by H.M. King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain on 23 October 2008, constitutes a historic turning point and a gateway to economic reform, in conjunction with political reform. It lays down the future tracks of the national economy until 2030. It aims to ensure the transformation of the current economy from one based on oil revenues to a competitive and productive economy, planned by the Government but led by a vibrant private sector. The outcome is a growing Bahraini middle class that enjoys a high standard of living due to increased

productivity and well remunerated jobs. This Vision aims to establish a society based on the principles of sustainability, competitiveness and equity.

Mr. President,

The financial crisis that has affected the international economy since 2008, and the ensuing sovereign debt crisis in Europe, austerity measures, reform and restructuring of the banking system, the increased intervention of the state in matters of banking and economy in many countries led to a prominent role for the G20 in responding to financial and economic crises. This is due to the fact that it represents some 90% of world economy. Consequently, time has come for this Group, and other blocs, to play a leading role in enhancing and developing a common action from within the United Nations system and its various institutions by conceiving plans for a collective action to enhance the capacity of countries to address future crises and achieve an open and integrated economy.

Mr. President,

The settlement of conflicts between states, conflicts that we ourselves created, is a daily concern for all of us. Those conflicts are either of an ideological or ethnic nature, or are caused by the occupation of other peoples' land and their eviction from their homes and homelands. They divert our attention away from more important concerns: addressing poverty, ignorance, epidemics and natural disasters that take a heavy toll and impede human creativity. Narrow national interests of one state or the other that completely overlook the common good of the world are largely responsible for this state of affairs.

One of the most important among these issues, namely the Arab-Israeli conflict, is located in our own region. We have been stuck for decades now, as failure follows on the steps of hope and as frustration at the constant regression of the peace process overshadows our optimism. Yet, we persevere in our hope of achieving a just, durable and comprehensive peace that restores rights to their legitimate owners and opens doors for mutual acceptance as neighbours, friends and partners with all the respect and commitment required.

In this respect, we value the historic commitment and tireless efforts of President Barak Obama, President of the United States of America, and his Administration to give a strong impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, and to renew hope by launching resumed direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel with a view to settling this chronic conflict. These precious efforts, however, require the unfailing commitment and continued support of all parties concerned to take the necessary measures towards the attainment of peace and to refrain from placing hurdles on its path to block it anew. They must take steps towards coexistence among all through enhanced communication and outreach to offer each party the opportunity to convince the other to coexist and become a partner in the region and not an ill-intentioned and treacherous enemy. Our attachment to the Arab Peace Initiative is but a clear example of that. We are committed to this initiative and all its provisions aimed at achieving a genuine peace.

Mr. President,

One of the basic tenants of our foreign policy is our determination to see security and stability prevail in our region and to support its development. In this respect, we look forward with anticipation to a peaceful and prosperous Iraq, capable of discarding any

foreign intervention in its domestic affairs and faithful to its Arab-Islamic identity, inclusive of all ethnic and cultural affiliations.

As regards the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are keenly interested in its stability and the prosperity of its people. We look forward to the vital role it can play to eliminate the ghost of discord around its nuclear programme. We welcome its commitment to the peaceful nature of the programme and stress the need for transparency and full compliance with the requirements of the IAEA and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

On the other hand, the settlement of the question of the UAE islands occupied by Iran, be it through direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice, would constitute a vital step forward towards laying the foundations for a regional cohesion that would generate the stability necessary for development in the interest of all the peoples of the region.

The stability of Yemen is one of the pillars of the stability of the region as a whole. The Kingdom of Bahrain therefore reaffirms its full support to the Republic of Yemen in all the measures it takes to combat terrorism and protect its national security and calls on the international community to play its role in providing support and assistance to this brotherly country, be it through bilateral channels or through the Friends of Yemen.

As regards the situation in the Sudan, we welcome the agreements signed by the Government of the Sudan and the concerned Sudanese parties and commend the State of Qatar for the considerable efforts it is deploying in this context. We look forward to the completion of the current negotiations about the issue of Darfur within the framework of agreements signed to preserve the unity of the Sudan.

Mr. President,

Resolving these differences will enable us to address the real challenges to which we should give our common attention: challenges of security and terrorism and challenges of devastating natural disasters, such as the tragic ordeal to which is subjected the sisterly Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Haiti following respectively, the unprecedented catastrophic floods and the devastating earthquake. We express our solidarity with them and pray that they will overcome this adversity with assistance from the international community, commensurate with the enormity of the disasters.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is a multifaceted global phenomenon affecting the entire world through criminal terrorist acts perpetrated against many countries. It politicizes religious discourse and uses it to divide countries and communities in contradiction with its original mission of providing spiritual counsel and guidance. It utilizes mass media for the same purpose. The best way to combat terrorism is to trace and expose its funding sources. This requires consensus on a limpid international financial system to regulate the transfer of these funds in all transparency.

Mr. President,

For the international community to address these serious challenges and threats, states must be in a position to play their role fully by enhancing the concepts of political participation, the rule of law, judicial and institutional reform, freedom of opinion and

expression, consolidation of democratic practices and human rights and involvement of the society in sharing responsibilities.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, restructuring international relations and building more inclusive alliances, requires a higher degree of respect for the opinions and values of the other, consistent with our commitments to pursue the objectives and noble principles embodied in the Charter: peace, security, friendly relations, international cooperation among nations and peoples. My country reaffirms before you its resolve to play its role as an effective member of the international community, participating in its action and taking initiatives for the good of all

I thank you Mr. President.