

REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE

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الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية
البعثة الدائمة لدى هيئة الأمم المتحدة

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Statement of His Excellency
Dr. Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Before

The Sixty Fifth Session of the United Nations
General Assembly

New York- 25th September 2010

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**In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful
And Peace and Blessings Upon His Noble Prophet**

**Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses;
Mr. President of the sixty-fifth session;**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me - first - to congratulate, on behalf of the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, **Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz** and me personally, His Excellency **Mr. Joseph DEISS** on the occasion of his election as President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and to wish him success in his new duties.

I have a great confidence that the prompt and successful effort that he will make, God Willing, will have a fine impact in enhancing the benefits of the Organization, which were realized under the leadership of his predecessor, His Excellency Dr. Ali Abdel Salam Triki, who had great merit in strengthening the ties of cooperation, and consolidating the bonds of brotherhood and universal principles of peace and dialogue at the General Assembly level.

It, also, gives me a great pleasure, to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his hard work to achieve the objectives of the organization by consolidating peace, security and prosperity in the world.

**Mr. President;
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mauritania, which fulfilled its constitutional institutions by selecting Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz as a President of the Republic, via elections in which the Mauritanian people expressed their will freely, impartially and with maturity, has taken today - for the first time in its history - a thorough and significant step forward and a new era called 'serious work' to improve the living conditions of the Mauritanian citizen, strengthen democracy, and build a state based on justice, equality and the values of the Republic, in good terms with itself and with its neighbors.

In the new era, there isn't any political prisoner in Mauritania; the pluralistic parliament plays its full role in legislation and control of the government. The Press exercises its freedom without confiscation or constriction, just like Political Parties, Unions and Civil Society Institutions.

Inspired by the electoral platform of President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, the government of Mauritania devotes itself to the implementation of ambitious developmental policies which are clearly visible; its goal is to eliminate corruption and its consequences, push forward the resources of the country, utilize them in a reasonable, responsible and transparent manner, impose respect of the law and the prestige of the Country, disseminate social peace, provide basic services and construct essential infrastructures needed for the development of the country.

This policy has earned the confidence and support of friends and partners of Mauritania who have blessed - during their meeting in Brussels last June - our ambitious developmental programs, and pledged a financial funding of three billion two hundred million dollars over three years.

In the course of the implementation of these programs, Mauritania has turned into big workshops leading to the construction of roads, building health and educational facilities, and the establishment of integrated projects, purpose of which is empowering women and youth to contribute to the economic and social development and to improve the conditions of the poor and the marginalized who have been rejoicing at the election of President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, which gave him the title of (the President of the poor) for his attention and care for others.

**Mr. President;
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mauritania - like the rest of the world - is facing the danger of terrorism and cross-borders organized crime. Of course, terrorism is a global phenomenon, not tied to a particular country, continent, religion or a society; and to try to confuse Islam with this phenomenon is unacceptable and illogical, for the most affected by this terrorism phenomenon is the Islamic World.

We consider that fighting terrorism requires the strengthening of social justice, forming and integrating young people in active life, and creating hope for them so that not to become an easy target for terrorist and extremist organizations.

My country, which is making diligent efforts on all these fronts, also focuses on activating the role of our prominent scholars to debate in the best manner to provide the correct image of Islam, a religion of tolerance, virtue, and acceptance of others, and to reject extremism.

Similarly, Mauritania, - away from being at a war against anyone - as His Excellency the President of the Republic said in more than one occasion, will spare no effort in maintaining the tranquility of its citizens and ensure the necessary conditions for the development of their country, in security and stability.

Mr. President,

The establishment of a United Maghreb is a strategic option for the peoples of the region, and failure to establish it will reflect negatively on the future of this vital region of the world.

There is no doubt that finding a quick solution to the Sahara issue, obtaining the consent of the parties concerned, will contribute to accelerating the pace of integration of the Maghreb, and enable the Union to play its full role as an indispensable and effective regional partner.

On the other hand, Conscious of the importance of the Organization of the United Nations as an irreplaceable forum of the voices of the countries, members of the international community, big and small, powerful and weak, resolving difficult international issues, and coordinating and supporting development efforts, Mauritania supports the efforts to reform the Organization and its institutions, especially the UN Security Council, which we call for its expansion to include a permanent representation of the African continent, and a permanent representation of the Arab world, because democracy is an international requirement and not only a practice or national objective; it is not logical nor acceptable not to grant permanent seats at the Security Council for the African continent, and the Arab world due to their cultural, human and strategic weight.

Mr. President,

The Arab-Israeli conflict is still a source of tension and a threat to international peace and security, and to a sensitive and vital area of the world.

This region will not have stability without reaching a definitive solution to this conflict; a just and lasting solution in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy guaranteeing, on the one hand, the Palestinian people to regain their full rights and establish an independent and viable Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital; on the other hand, to ensure the retrieving of all of the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights and Syrian and Lebanese Shebaa Farms.

Mauritania hopes that the direct negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis realize tangible results in an acceptable timeframe, as there is no people in the Middle East that strives for peace more the Palestinian people.

My country also asks to lift the unjust siege on Gaza City, and put an end to the rejected collective and inhumane punishment against the Palestinian people, the enforcement of justice among peoples and civilizations is the best way to achieve peace and security in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, let me confirm what I had announced a four days ago that the challenges of development in our world will double if the International obligations are not fully met, for Poor countries are in an urgent need for more attention from the international community for their stability and development, and for committed partners who would help them integrate into the global economic system.

Thank you for your attention

and Peace, Mercy, and Blessing of God be upon you.