



SLOVENIA

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ADDRESS

BY

H.E. MR. BORUT PAHOR

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION

OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 25 September 2010

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address this Assembly for the first time as Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia and to reaffirm my country's commitment to the United Nations and its Charter.

Let me also congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly. We rely on your political wisdom and experience and I assure you of my country's utmost support in the coming weeks and months.

At the same time, I would like to thank the outgoing President of the 64th Session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Ali Treki, for his dedicated work in the past year.

I also wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his extraordinary energy and tireless efforts in guiding the United Nations in these difficult times, marked by an increasing number of global crises.

Mr. President,

Early this week, an unprecedented number of Heads of State and Government gathered here, in this same hall, and renewed their political commitment to accelerating the implementation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This target was set by world leaders ten years ago, with the promise of a better tomorrow for the most vulnerable people.

We therefore have eight clear targets that need to be fulfilled and we all need to ask ourselves whether we have done enough in furthering this objective. Without a clear commitment by all partners, we will not be able to achieve the goals on time. Even though we have seen better days, we cannot allow any crisis to serve as an excuse for moving away from the charted path. Along the way, we must continue to observe a number of important principles, such as the right of all to development, the ownership of development paths, a demand-driven approach, aid effectiveness and policy coherence for development. However, we must also consider the importance of cross-cutting issues, such as human rights, gender equality and good governance. I therefore applaud the Secretary-General for his leadership and pledge Slovenia's active and extensive support in securing the fulfilment of our promises.

Mr. President,

In the past few years, numerous national leaders have spoken in this Assembly about new global challenges that threaten our security, prosperity and freedom. There is a general consensus that more effective and coordinated global action is required to address such challenges. For Slovenia, strengthening global governance means renewing our common commitment to multilateralism and its principles of inclusion, legitimacy and transparency.

The United Nations must keep its place at the core of global governance structures. However, this organization also needs to adapt to today's reality of an interconnected world and the resulting new challenges and threats. Reform of the United Nations has been long overdue. The composition of the Security Council is visibly out of date and the work of the General Assembly needs revitalization. Progress in reform of peacekeeping would strengthen all other UN activities

relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, including preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building. Slovenia has been a member of Human Rights Council for the past three years. The Council seems to be on a good path to becoming the most important UN body for the protection and promotion of human rights. However, although the progress achieved so far is encouraging, it is not sufficient. The Human Rights Council Review, planned for 2011, will be therefore a good opportunity for addressing the current shortcomings and challenges. Ultimately, all of the reform efforts must be aimed at strengthening the central role of the United Nations as the world's only universal international organization.

The reforms of international economic and financial systems must continue at an accelerated speed, reflecting global development needs. Our endeavours should aim at increasing accountability, responsibility and solidarity, while taking into account the need for a stronger voice and better participation of developing countries, which should be fully included in the international response to the crisis. Together, we must build a world in which economic indicators are not the only measure of a prosperous society. Human, social and environmental values should also become principal elements of our criteria. In this connection, I encourage closer cooperation and coordination between the UN and the Bretton-Woods institutions and between the UN and the G-20 in finding the best possible responses to the crisis and in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

It is unfortunate that as a result of the far-reaching developments we continue to face an even greater challenge in climate change. Indeed, the past year has been a year of lost opportunities. However, this should not be a reason for lowering our ambitions. Climate change is real, the loss of biodiversity is unprecedented, and the consequences are already being felt by far too many people around the world. In some cases, the very existence of individual countries, member states of the UN, is at stake. This year, we must do better, and do more in Cancun in order to reach a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement, which will limit global warming to below 2 degrees, as stated in the Copenhagen Accord, and improve adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. Our responsibilities differ, but we must all shoulder our share of the common burden.

Mr. President.

History is not a pre-ordained destiny. It is a sum total of the choices of each generation. It is a test of the presence or absence of vision, courage and idealism to change the existing *status quo*. After the fall of the Berlin Wall the countries of Western Europe decided to open their ranks to the states of Central and Eastern Europe. This decision was instrumental in building a modern Europe whole and free, with well-anchored democratic values. The choice for enlargement of Euro-Atlantic institutions was thus a choice for stability on the continent.

Unfortunately, the financial and economic crisis in internal debates in many European states pushed aside some of the topics that are important, natural and of strategic interest to the continent as a whole. The need for a continued process of enlargement of the European Union and NATO is one of them. I would therefore like to underline that the commitment to enlargement to the Western Balkans needs to be honoured. All the more so, since the situation in the region today has changed for the better. Obvious and tangible progress has been made.

In this connection, I would like to recall that only a couple of weeks ago this distinguished Assembly adopted a consensus resolution, acknowledging the content of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which was rendered in response to the submitted request on the issue of the declaration of independence of Kosovo. I am particularly glad that the resolution paved the way for dialogue, which the European Union is ready to facilitate.

It is the historic responsibility of the democratically elected leaders of the countries of the Western Balkans to pursue reconciliation and the rebuilding of mutual trust. In order to promote the necessary confidence I therefore decided, together with the Prime Minister of Croatia, to launch the so-called Brdo Process several months ago in Slovenia. Our aim is to encourage dialogue and cooperation among the political leaders with a view to discussing mutual support and further steps on the road to Euro-Atlantic integration of the entire region. I believe we are on the right track and will continue to work in this direction.

Mr. President,

Slovenia plays an active role in the international community and takes its responsibilities seriously. I would therefore like to confirm once again our dedication to the candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 2012-2013, at the elections to be held next year in this Assembly.

Slovenia views its candidature as an opportunity to contribute further to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes. We intend to build on our international commitments and experience gained in the past years. We are committed to upholding the rule of law, respect for human rights, international law and international humanitarian law, and we continue to foster open and transparent international dialogue in the spirit of cooperation and consensus-building.

The candidature therefore underscores the great significance Slovenia attaches to the role of the UN in an increasingly interdependent and complex world. Furthermore, it indicates Slovenia's desire to utilize its rich multilateral experience for enhancing the goals and principles of this universal international organization.

Finally, let me say once more how honoured I am, as the Prime Minister of Slovenia, to be present in this Assembly. Extraordinary historical circumstances have shaped the development of my country, which therefore attaches great importance to a constant promotion of the noble purposes and principles of international relations as defined in the Charter of the United Nations. I am therefore all the more pleased to have been able to participate in the general debate devoted to the reaffirmation of the central role of this organization in global governance.

Thank you.

