

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE  
auprès des Nations Unies

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**Address by H.E. Mr. Doru Costea,  
State Secretary for Global Affairs,  
at the General Debate of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the UN General Assembly**

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*Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée générale,*

*Monsieur le Secrétaire général,*

*Vos excellences,*

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, mes plus sincères félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de la 66ème session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Je vous souhaite plein succès dans ce défi et je vous assure de l'entier soutien de la délégation roumaine.

*Monsieur le Président,*

Le thème choisi pour cette année, « Le rôle de la médiation dans le règlement des conflits par des moyens pacifiques » est sans doute sage et très actuel. La Roumanie est très intéressée par ce sujet, tenant compte d'une longue tradition de médiation ainsi que de la densité des conflits non résolus dans son voisinage.

Il y a des conflits auxquels nous sommes confrontés depuis des années et des décennies sans résultat concret. Il y a aussi des conflits qui éclatent violemment et détournent l'espoir d'une vie meilleure et de développement pour des régions entières. Dans l'environnement de sécurité actuel, la médiation et les instruments de prévention des conflits sont très utiles - mais ils ne sont pas suffisamment utilisés.

Il est nécessaire de continuer à renforcer la base juridique de la médiation, à renforcer les activités de médiation par les Nations Unies et les organisations régionales et sous-régionales, ainsi que d'améliorer l'engagement des États membres dans les efforts de médiation.

Nous devons toujours être menés par le fait que la médiation pour la paix et la prévention des conflits à un stade précoce sont beaucoup plus rentables que la gestion de crise et le maintien de la paix. Dans ce but, nous maintenons que toute situation de conflit à travers le monde - peu importe le contexte - devrait être bien connue et revue périodiquement par le Conseil de sécurité et par tous les membres de l'ONU.

*Mister President,*

The protracted conflicts in Eastern Europe continue to ask for our undivided attention. We reiterate the importance of keeping the international community involved in handling them with a view to reaching peaceful solutions, within the existing regulatory frameworks.

We continue to attach great importance to the dialogue between the parties in order to find mutually acceptable solutions, while respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the States within the internationally recognized borders.

We welcome the opening of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, facilitated by the European Union following the resolution of the General Assembly in 2010, and reiterate the central role of the UN and the framework of the Security Council Resolution 1244. Recent problems have yet to be overcome through cooperation, while keeping the dialogue on track.

We support the Geneva talks, co-chaired by the UN, EU and OSCE on the situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Progress in the humanitarian condition should not be held hostage to political setbacks and calls for urgent solutions.

With regard to Afghanistan, we are witnessing progress in the gradual takeover of responsibility by the Afghan authorities in the fields of security, reconstruction and socio-economic development. We welcome the steps taken by the Afghan Administration for national reconciliation. We trust that we should not set up a rigid framework, with fixed time lines for the transition period. Instead the transition should be tailored according to particular realities and conditions required for the normal functioning of the Afghan society.

Romania considers that progress in Afghanistan also depends on the efforts of the authorities in Kabul and the continued commitment of the international community. In this context, we welcome the role and efforts of the UN, other international organizations and Member States and reaffirm Romania's commitment to building democratic institutions in Afghanistan.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the valiant women and men who serve the cause of peace worldwide. Many of them, including Romanians, lost their lives or were wounded in mission. Our deepest gratitude and respect for them!

*Mister President,*

These days, important statements have been issued on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Romania upholds a sustainable peace in Middle East, and our country defends the principle of two States - Israel and Palestine - that live together in peace and security.

The only viable solution that could efficiently apply to this case and could form the basis of a global and sustainable peace is through direct negotiations!

Romania is chairing the Fourth Committee during this session and we are ready to encourage, from this position as well, all diplomatic efforts aiming at achieving progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

*Mister President,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

This year, the UN General Assembly session is placed under the powerful sign of the tremendous political transformations in North Africa and Middle East. Romania warmly welcomes these transformations. What has become known by now as the “Arab Spring” recalls in our minds and hearts the events that took place more than 20 years ago in our part of the world. Twenty years after, we are proud of our accomplishments on the path of democracy building. Yet, we know first hand that the journey is difficult and sometimes daunting, with many challenges lying ahead.

Therefore, one of Romania’s priorities is to assist the countries in transition in North Africa and Middle East in their own democratic quest. Romania already supports the democratic consolidation in the regions in its proximity and beyond. In fact, most of our development assistance funds are dedicated to building democratic institutions, to the consolidation of the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Last July in Bucharest we convened an international workshop on electoral and political matters pertaining to democratic transition. The event was organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, the Electoral Assistance Division within the UN Secretariat in New York and the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants from Egypt and Tunisia, representatives of public institutions involved in organizing the elections, representatives of the media, civil society and academic circles, and by Romanian and international experts. The seminar focused on sharing experiences on first electoral cycles in post-authoritarian regimes, as founding moments for a new democratic society through credible, transparent and free elections.

Romania considers that the political transformations occurring in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and elsewhere have to be endorsed and supported by the United Nations with all available resources.

It is our collective responsibility to see to it that the proper conditions for human dignity and prosperity are set up in all our countries and to support the progress in the quest for fundamental freedoms and equal rights for all human beings. This is a part of Romania's mandate as a newly elected member in the Human Rights Council. We intend to implement this mandate in a constructive and balanced manner.

Whereas the human rights are fundamental rights, the current situation in the world is far from satisfactory. Human rights and democracy are universal values that require our constant attention and protection against any repressive actions. In this respect, the legitimate and peaceful demands for the respect of human rights and liberty of people in North Africa and Middle East are illustrative.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We reaffirm our will to act in cooperation with partners for a global and coherent approach on the multilateral risks and threats to the international peace and security, particularly those arising from the proliferation of mass destruction and conventional weapons. The best way to reduce the risks of the use of nuclear arms and materials, in particular by the non-state actors, is to irreversibly eliminate the nuclear arsenals and to apply a strict framework for non-proliferation. We support and we call all States to consider long-term responsible implication on this matter and to consider the global security interest above any others.

We are all familiar with the current multilateral framework that governs non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control. All treaties and conventions have proved their use so far. Yet, more is needed to increase the efficiency of their implementation and observance. We stand ready to work with others in order to achieve this key goal for the global security architecture.

*Mr. President, Your Excellencies,*

Romania reiterates its commitment to continue its active engagement in the preparatory process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Pursuing an open and transparent dialogue on the objectives and themes of the conference during the current session represents one of the main elements that will guide our actions.

The Conference will be a unique occasion for the international community to place humanity on the path of sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and in this context to establish a clear vision of the “green economy”.

Economic growth and the need to promote transition towards a green economy must be considered opportunities to make more with less, aiming for a higher standard of life and social equity.

Climate change should continue to be a mobilizing factor despite the obvious obstacles. We should not let the differences and the high complexity of interests undermine our determination. The Durban negotiations, based on the decisions of Cancun and the Copenhagen Accord, should pave the way to a swift adoption of a post-Kyoto global regime.

A clear and present challenge is that, while we are trying to set the world on a path of sustainable and equitable growth, we have to cope with one of the most severe economic and financial crises of the modern times.

The crisis, which still wreaks havoc on international affairs, has revealed the vulnerabilities of our financial and economic national and international systems. It has become evident that the world financial system is not adapted to the realities of global competition. Indeed, the entire system of economic and financial governance needs to be revised, and the budgets – including that of the United Nations – need to be kept under a strict control.

In times of crisis, options are limited. We can dwell in endless debates on “what should have been done” and “might have been’s”. But this is not the time for such debates – rather, it is the time to act. As the President of the European Council said the other day, in this hall: “We act. Supporting the forces of hope. Fighting the causes of worry”. We stand by this option. Reforms are needed that observe comprehensively good governance principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the wise use of available resources. This is the only option. A country without equal and dignified citizens can never be rich.

I thank you.