



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak today on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States. We are deeply saddened by the death of former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Secretariat of the United Nations, the people of Egypt and – above all – to his family and friends.

As the sixth of only eight persons to hold what one of his predecessors described as “the most impossible job in the world,” Mr. Boutros-Ghali left an indelible legacy, which continues to affect our work here at the United Nations until this day. His landmark report “An Agenda for Peace,” for example, has shaped the way in which the United Nations addresses conflicts, by introducing the concept of post-conflict peace-building.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali’s term of office was marked by a resurgence of multilateralism after the end of the Cold War and an unprecedented demand for its services in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Mr. Boutros-Ghali did much to shape the United Nations’ response to these demands. To quote Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “he showed courage in

posing difficult questions to the Member States, and rightly insisted on the independence of his office and of the Secretariat as a whole.”

His legacy was not limited to the United Nations, however. His years at the UN were preceded by long years of service in the government of Egypt, culminating in his holding the post of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also contributed in many respects to the enrichment of international law, as a highly recognized faculty member, a former member of the International Law Commission and a member of the International Commission of Jurists, to name a few of his past affiliations. He also embodied the dialogue among nations, languages and civilizations that the United Nations were built for. After his term as Secretary-General, he continued to be active, most notably as the first Secretary-General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and contributed to the Francophonie’s flourishing cooperation with the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The United Nations has lost a leader, a friend, an advocate. He will be mourned the world over.

I thank you.