

ITEM 102:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT

BY

MR. STEFAN BARRIGA
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, 2 OCTOBER 2006

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame President,

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his excellent report on the work of the organization. This document is more than just an internal assessment on the management of an organization, it is indeed a report which reflects the state of the world and outlines ways in which the organization and Member States can tackle a broad range of global challenges. The General Assembly has a central role to play in this regard, and therefore I would like to outline our assessment as to how this organ should, over the next few months, contribute to the success of the organization.

Madame President,

While the issue of **development** in all its aspects continues to figure very high on the agenda of the General Assembly, there is only so much this Assembly can add to its past work, including the 2005 World Summit Outcome. We agree with the Secretary-General's statement that if history judges 2005 for its promises, then 2006 must be judged for its implementation. Notwithstanding certain progress achieved in some areas of the world towards the Millennium Development Goals, much remains to be done in the area of implementation. Rather than adding more words to the already very impressive existing repertoire of commitments and declarations, the 61st session of the General Assembly should set the stage for implementation and its evaluation. Doing so represents a very difficult task, particularly in light of the fact that many important decisions affecting the development agenda are being taken outside the framework of this Assembly. In this respect, we note with particular concern the suspension of the negotiations of the WTO's Doha Development Round.

Regarding the issue of **environmental protection** as well as **system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian affairs and environment**, we hope that this session will bring steady progress and thereby contribute to structural changes

which will be beneficial in the long term. We must find ways of simplifying and streamlining the existing institutional framework, in order to allow for more effective use of resources, optimize synergies and make the system more transparent and more accessible.

The area of **conflict prevention** also falls into the category of topics where we have seen many words, but are still awaiting real action. We have recently received the Secretary-General's report on this matter and adopted a landmark resolution on conflict prevention at the 57th session. This session should therefore focus on how to strengthen the United Nations' tools in the area of conflict prevention. We congratulate the Department of Political Affairs for its groundbreaking work aimed at supporting mediation efforts in a more systematic manner. This is a core task of this organization to which the General Assembly must devote more resources from its regular budget.

Liechtenstein welcomes the recent adoption of the **Counter-Terrorism Strategy**. This document underlines our resolve to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, and it represents another example of real General Assembly revitalization through the adoption of important decisions. We hope that Member States will now be ready to take the next step on this matter, and overcome the remaining disagreement on the draft **comprehensive convention**. The outstanding issues have indeed less to do with the words proposed and their legal effect, as with their political interpretation. Only a concerted effort, including at the highest levels, will therefore bring us closer to success.

On the issues of **disarmament and non-proliferation**, as well as the problem of the proliferation of **small arms and light weapons**, it is time to pick up the pieces and start anew. The spirit of cooperation that has prevailed in our efforts aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction should inspire the

multilateral negotiations on disarmament. The past session brought not even promises in these areas, let alone implementation.

Liechtenstein is very pleased that the initiative to consider the agenda item “**The rule of law at the international and national levels**” has been received very favorably by other Member States. This new item closes a gap in the agenda of the Assembly which was rather surprising, given the importance both Member States and the Secretary-General have placed on this topic in the past. We expect that the Assembly’s debate of the item will in the long run lead to stronger United Nations action in this area, in particular in capacity-building for the improved reception of international law into domestic law. We furthermore expect that this session will continue to strengthen the cooperative relationship between the United Nations and the **International Criminal Court**. Much remains to be done to improve the mutual understanding of the respective roles of these two organizations, which can lead to great synergy effects. These should yield concrete results in the area of investigations and prosecutions, including on the situation referred to the Prosecutor by the Security Council.

Human Rights have for long been declared to have entered the era of implementation, which remains true, but the United Nations work in this area is also subject to intensive reform efforts. This session provides us with an opportunity to continue the strengthening of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to further develop our thinking about the reform of the Treaty Body System. The work of the **Human Rights Council** needs to find the right relationship with the General Assembly, and we trust that this will reflect the great expectations which we all have placed on this new body.

While we have made a lot of progress in the **humanitarian area** in 2005, in particular through the establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), great challenges remain. This session should devote strong efforts to

furthering a more even-handed approach in the delivery of humanitarian aid and the protection of civilians. Progress in this area would certainly also be easier to achieve if the Assembly could streamline the consideration of agenda items of humanitarian nature.

On **Security Council reform** we note that there is at least a minimal consensus: something must be done about it. While we are satisfied that the initiative we have undertaken together with the other members of the S-5 is showing some positive effects, we believe that the Assembly should also resume a serious engagement on the issue of enlargement. This will only be possible if some of the entrenched positions from the past are abandoned in favor of a new and more pragmatic thinking. Past experience has shown that this is an area which needs strong leadership, and we look forward to working with you on this matter.

Management reform, mandate review and other administrative matters affecting the Secretariat must be tackled in a manner which avoids micro-management and which takes into account that this organization is no longer just a conference-servicing facility. Progress is also needed on the question of the financing of the Capital Master Plan.

General Assembly revitalization is more than a technical matter, it is a matter of political will. Nevertheless, the implementation of past resolutions on General Assembly revitalization requires institutional knowledge, and should be coordinated by a focal point in the Office of the President of the General Assembly. As for the non-technical matters, it is up to us Member States to make good use of our meeting time at the 61st session in order to come up with decisions and resolutions of real relevance. The topics just outlined provide us with more than enough material to do so.

I thank you.