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PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## STATEMENT

BY H.E. MR. MILO ĐUKANOVIĆ  
PRIME MINISTER OF MONTENEGRO

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate H.E. Dr. Ali Abdulssalam Treki on his election as President of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, wish him every success in his work and assure him of Montenegro's unwavering support.

I would also like to thank the former President Miguel d'Escotto Brockmann for his endeavours and personal contribution in discharging this demanding and challenging post.

At the same time I would like to pay my tribute to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his outstanding efforts in leading the world organisation in these complex and trying times.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we have heard from the statements of previous distinguished speakers, given the impact of the world economic and financial crisis and related food and energy crises, the climate change, and the flu pandemic on the economic and social growth and development, politics and global relations, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, only a coordinated and a concerted global effort can yield positive results:

Response to the current challenges, therefore, requires pooling all capacities and available resources, as well as a strong political will of us all. In this, the key role belongs to the United Nations, the most important multilateral forum today.

Montenegro, as a country which advocates equality of peoples and nations in international relations, is fully committed to active participation in coming up with a global response to the present-day challenges.

Preserving peace and security through activities aimed at creating political, economic, social and cultural environment for the implementation and respect of international law, the rule of law and protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms, are the main principles and bases of the Montenegrin foreign policy priorities. In this regard Montenegro remains strongly committed to the fundamental principles and purposes of the UN Charter, which imply peaceful resolution of disputes, assertion of diplomatic negotiations, and non-interference into the internal affairs of states.

Strong cooperation with neighbouring countries and regional stability are the underlying principles of the foreign policy of Montenegro and a precondition for progress in its broader integration processes. Since the last General Assembly session we have moved to a new and more

demanding phase of the European and Euro-Atlantic integration. We feel particularly encouraged by the dynamic progress Montenegro has made towards the EU and NATO membership. We expect that in the near future the European Commission will issue an opinion on Montenegro's preparedness for the EU membership and we also expect an invitation for NATO Membership Action Plan, which will open additional opportunities for these two integration processes to gain momentum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Taking into consideration the strong impact of the world economic and financial crisis on the overall socio-economic development, the most recent reports from the global financial markets are encouraging, indicating an end to the global crisis even earlier than expected. However, in order to ensure a sustained economic development, increased aid and implementation of trade agreements, the achievement of international solidarity is imperative in addressing the needs of the world's poor and most vulnerable. Given that the recovery is going to be long and gradual, all countries, led by the United Nations, should be committed to the implementation of policies and measures initiated through different international fora, including the UN Conference on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development, the G-20, World Bank and the IMF.

Bearing in mind the characteristics of the Montenegrin economy as a small and open system, we could not remain immune to the global turbulent developments. In this regard, the Government of Montenegro has adopted a package of economic policy measures aimed at maintaining macroeconomic stability, improving productivity and preserving a favourable economic environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Harmful consequences of climate change, increasing energy consumption, coupled with growing dependence on imported fossil fuels and their negative impact on the environment and standard of living are issues causing profound concern among us all and rightly so. The Summit on Climate Change held on the eve of the General Debate is, in our view, a significant step forward in Member States' political support to the process of the implementation of MDGs in this field.

We believe that both character and effects of climate change call for comprehensive international response based on the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), facilitating sustainable economic development of the society in accordance with the guidelines of the 2007 Bali Action Plan. I would like to take this opportunity to express a strong support of Montenegro to the negotiation process on a new post-2012 climate framework and to the calls to "seal the deal" in Copenhagen in December.

We believe that further efforts need to be made to promote green recovery and to build up national capacities for adaptation and mitigation of the climate change impact, simultaneously

stimulating innovation and economic growth, contributing to poverty reduction and ensuring access to sustainable energy sources.

In this regard we underline the importance of regional co-operation, which enables us to implement adaptation and mitigation measures in a regional context, advancing political dialogue and leading to a more effective action by states in the talks within the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol frameworks. In order to contribute to the efforts being undertaken at national and international levels in addressing the impact of climate change on the environment and economic development and in reaching a successful deal in Copenhagen, Montenegro will organize a Regional Conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean and South-East European countries in Budva, on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Millennium Development Goals require each and every one of us to redouble our efforts to reduce poverty, improve health and education, promote peace and human rights, and achieve sustainable development. We are well aware that it is the primary responsibility of states to take measures aimed at improving social security of the poor and vulnerable segments of the society and alleviating most severe consequences of poverty. In this context we strongly welcome convening of the MDGs Review Summit in 2010.

Montenegro firmly advocates fulfillment of MDGs and implementation of all UN documents, including the Millennium Declaration, related to development issues and special needs of Africa, as a pre-emptive action conducive to creating a safer world. As a country moving towards European integration, we welcome the EU-Africa partnership and the efforts currently under way to find solutions to development needs and to root out poverty on the African continent. In this regard, we support the message of the 2008 Yokohama Declaration, aimed at giving momentum to the current development trends, promotion of education, health and sanitary measures within the framework of the MDGs, including development of agriculture to improve food security and measures to tackle climate change, as well as, most importantly, establishing and maintaining peace as a prerequisite for economic growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We emphasize the crucial importance of the debate on the concept of the Responsibility to Protect, taking place at the UN, and we fully support the activities of the Secretary-General and assessments outlined in his latest report. We believe that an upsurge of internal conflicts and serious violations of human rights in the 1990s have spurred a discussion on the need for protection of civilians in armed conflicts, which has unquestionably led to further deliberations and analyses on the primary obligation of each state to protect its citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as the international community's responsibility in the event where countries fail to do so. In this context, we further underline the significance of reaching an agreement on an appropriate concept and instruments within the framework of the United Nations and international law based on a broad consensus of all actors.

In supporting peacekeeping missions as efficient and dynamic instruments for monitoring respect of human rights and building sustainable institutions in conflict areas, we have created legal and other prerequisites within our security policy necessary to contribute our military and police troops to the UN peacekeeping missions, including missions to Liberia, Afghanistan and Cyprus, as well as the European Union peace operation ATALANTA in Somalia.

Given the turbulent characteristics of the Balkan region, Montenegro attaches particular importance to the policy of addressing the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons and, in this regard, is conducting extensive activities towards finding lasting solutions for refugees and IDPs from the territory of the former Yugoslavia. As part of its efforts; a renewed registration procedure, supported by the UNHCR, is under way for the refugees and IDPs living in Montenegro, in order to resolve their final status, while fully respecting and safeguarding their rights in accordance with the highest international standards and international law instruments. In this regard we highlight the importance of a comprehensive approach and cooperation of countries in the region and the international community at large, primarily the UNHCR, European Commission and OSCE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Montenegro stresses the importance of promotion and respect of international law in the development of international relations today. In this context, the rule of law and protection of human rights have a crucial role in the fight against international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and organized crime.

We are firmly convinced that only coordinated and concerted efforts of the global community can take on international terrorism. Montenegro supports the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as measures in fighting corruption, organized crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking, and we further underscore the need for cooperation with all the bodies in the UN system, mainly the committees of the Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Montenegro attaches particular importance to the fulfilment of the obligations stipulated by the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against drug trafficking and it actively participates in projects of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which contribute to the regional peace and stability, strengthening of the judiciary, and a more efficient fight against all forms of organized crime.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In view of the above, it is clear that the responsibility of the United Nations is only increasing. We, therefore, welcome the reform process of the world organisation, which will, hopefully, result in a more democratic and representative UN. We attach particular importance to strengthening the role and efficiency of the General Assembly and its main bodies, and fully support intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform. These negotiations offer an

opportunity for small states to express their interests, in addition to providing a vision of an improved and more transparent functioning of the most important UN organ.

As you may know, this past June, the UN Group for Development identified Montenegro as a country eligible for the implementation of "Delivering as One", a pilot initiative launched within the framework of the overall reform process aimed at improving efficiency, coherence and coordination of the UN development programmes on the ground. In our view, this decision recognizes Montenegro's strong commitment to the UN standards and values and provides an endorsement for the highly successful joint efforts of the UN team in Montenegro and the Montenegrin Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Taking into consideration a myriad of challenges and their negative effects on the environment and potential increase in social, religious and cultural tensions that can cause political and security instability, only a coordinated and comprehensive response of all stakeholders in the international system, including civil society and the private sector, can create preconditions for efficiently addressing and overcoming consequences of the ongoing crises. In this regard, the United Nations has a decisive role in coordinating efforts towards the achievement of concrete results.

Convinced of the great potential and capability of the United Nations, supported by an active participation of the Member States, we reiterate Montenegro's commitment to fully contribute to building a responsible international community, ready to meet the needs of all its members.

Thank you!