

Statement by
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Mr. Secretary-General, Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The global game has changed. Interdependence or globalisation takes place at an unprecedented speed. With globalisation, the concept of national sovereignty has changed. The international order based on the nation state and established in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia is being challenged. Non-state actors are becoming more and more influential on the global scene: Private militias and transnational criminal movements are increasingly responsible for conflicts that used to be between state actors and undermining agreements entered between - and adhered to by - states.

Boundaries between domestic and foreign policy are changing. Developments in one part of the world often trigger unintended actions in other parts of the world. If we look the other way when faced with conflicts and human suffering, problems will grow, not disappear. To meet the goals and challenges confronting the global community, we need more than ever a dynamic and proactive United Nations.

The United Nations has to proactively address the agenda set by globalisation. And the UN must be able to change in order to effectively meet and deliver on the new challenges. It is in everybody's interest to have an efficient UN. This organisation adds legitimacy and moral force to the international community's actions in a globalised world. An effective UN can alleviate the negative effects of globalisation and turn it into a positive force. All have to work for necessary reform steps to be initiated.

Madam President,

The Summit last September set an ambitious agenda for the United Nations and the General Assembly. I am pleased that we have achieved considerable results. Prominent examples are: The Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Central Emergency Response Fund.

The two new organs represent a long overdue institutional modernisation of the United Nations that, if used as intended, will help the United Nations in addressing the new challenges. That is why Denmark has put so much effort into helping fostering the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

With Burundi and Sierra Leone on the agenda, the Peacebuilding Commission has chosen two nations in need, but also two nations willing to join forces with the international community in their endeavour to build their nations.

As it should, the Human Rights Council allows for closer scrutiny by the international community in domestic affairs. Not because we wish to punish, but because we wish to help improve. Such scrutiny is a desirable monitoring mechanism to ensure protection of people from abuse by their government.

Let us avoid politicising the work of this new body, and instead, in a spirit of cooperation, ensure that the Human Rights Council is successful in meeting the objectives laid down by the General Assembly.

In this context, I would like also to draw attention to the decision by the Human Rights Council to recommend to this 61st General Assembly, the adoption of the Draft Declaration on

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Work on the Declaration has been under way for more than 20 years. It is high time that we – the Governments – approve this landmark instrument aimed at furthering the rights and aspirations of the World's indigenous populations.

In June, as president of the Security Council, Denmark sought to highlight the importance to strengthen International Law. We picked up the torch from the 2005 Summit by calling a special meeting on the critical role of international law in fostering stability and order in international relations. The Security Council spoke out clearly in favour of international law both in general terms and on specific topics such as delisting. Denmark will continue to pursue these topics and call on all Member States to join us.

Madam President,

The reform agenda is far from exhausted.

The Security Council should be reformed to better reflect the world of today.

Furthermore, we need to make substantial progress on mandate review and management reform in this session of the General Assembly. Otherwise, we cannot meet the new challenges.

Member States should not micro manage the UN, but build a strong and fast responding organisation to meet the new challenges. The UN must play a strong role in order to secure positive gains for developing countries of globalisation. Denmark awaits with eagerness the recommendation of the High Level Panel on System Wide Coherence. Our aim is to enhance the efficiency and impact on the ground of the UN's development cooperation.

Madam President,

It is a cause for concern that we have witnessed the resurgence of the notion of respect for national sovereignty as a justification for inaction and paralysis in international affairs. There is of course no denying that nation states remain the constituent part of the international system and of this very organisation. But respect for sovereignty can never become an excuse for accepting massive human rights violations. That was the key message from the Summit last year, when Heads of State pronounced their support for the notion of Responsibility to Protect.

The Security Council has consistently worked to uphold the sovereignty of Lebanon since 2004. In August of this year the Council intervened to stop the war between Hezbollah and Israel and decided to send thousands of peacekeepers to help the Lebanese government extend its authority to all parts of the country. We call on all regional players to work constructively towards that goal. Resolution 1701 must be fully respected by all parties. Denmark is actively considering ways to promote the implementation of resolution 1701, including assisting the Secretary-General in his endeavours to find ways forward on the political aspects.

The war between Hezbollah and Israel proves the volatility of the Middle East. For decades the international community has sought to address the Arab-Israeli conflict that continues to breed hatred and fanaticism. We must support the moderate reform forces and empower them to stand up against centrifugal tendencies. We need to redouble our efforts to finally achieve a comprehensive and lasting two-state solution to this tragic conflict. It is in nobody's interest that the instability in the Middle East continues.

The same goes for the Sudan. The Council's decision last month to continue preparations for a UN peacekeeping force to relieve the African Union force and stop the senseless carnage of civilians in Darfur drew sharp criticism from the Government of Sudan and was denounced as neo-colonialism and a violation of its sovereign rights. But whose rights are really being violated here? Rather than the Government of Sudan, I submit that it is the right of the population of Darfur to get protection that is being violated. And it is incumbent on the international community to act, if a government fails to fulfil this responsibility. I call upon the Government of Sudan to work with us, not against us, in protecting the population in Darfur.

Therefore, the United States and Denmark are hosting a meeting later today on the Darfur crisis.

In Afghanistan, the security situation continues to be of great concern. We are – individually and collectively – tested on our commitment to assist the Afghan people in their path towards a just and prosperous future. Warlords, financed by opium trade, threaten the democratic rights of the people. The UN must continue to support the remarkable transformation process undertaken by the Afghan people and their Government.

We wish to see a stronger role for the UN in Iraq in order to contribute to a peaceful and democratic development. A necessary precondition for improving the situation is better living conditions for all in Iraq. Needless to say, it is our common interest to assist the Iraqi people in their struggle to reform and build their country. It must not fall victim to sectarianism and terrorism. If this happens the whole region will become destabilised.

Madam president,

The most serious danger of globalisation is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Security Council reacted in unity to deplore the launch of several missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea action on the 4th of July. We call on Pyongyang to return to the six party talks. Iran has failed to respond to the demands from the Security Council. We call on Teheran to suspend enrichment activities and accept negotiations on the generous package.

Weapons of mass destruction and terrorism represent a deadly combination. Terrorism is already in itself one of the major threats to international peace and stability. We all remember the tragedies here in the United States five years ago, and the terrorist attacks in London, Madrid, Amman, Bali, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey. I am very pleased that the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy has now been adopted by the General Assembly. It brings renewed hope that we may also conclude the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention this year. I call upon all States to seriously attempt to bridge the different views on the Convention.

As Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee under the Security Council, Denmark is working for a strengthening of the international fight against terrorism through an improved cooperation between the Council and the Member States.

Madam President,

Let me conclude my statement by expressing Denmark's sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his tireless efforts to promote a more just, prosperous, and peaceful world, and for his leadership of the United Nations. For almost ten years he has served in an

office where expectations for action are not always matched by the requisite powers and means to act. He has impressively carried a heavy burden through troubled times, and even recently he has undertaken new challenges in the Middle East and in the world at large. His act will be difficult to follow. Let his heritage be that the stones, he lifted, do not roll back down the mountain.

Thank you