



LITHUANIA

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Statement by
Dr. Oskaras JUSYS,
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania
at the
60th session of UN Plenary Assembly

New York
September 20, 2005

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates

Lithuania welcomes this most extensive and ambitious effort ever made to renew the United Nations. We must make sure that the summit commitments we have all undertaken are implemented and produce real and tangible results, in order to improve the organisation's capacity to act adequately, effectively, expeditiously- and in the best interests of all of us. Their implementation should also enable us to restore hope to the vulnerable and the destitute- and to make the world a better place for us all.

We welcome the affirmation by the outcome document of the inextricable link between development, security and human rights. This, in our view, is a sine qua non for all our future actions. We welcome the reaffirmation of the commitments regarding the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. As a member state, we are proud of the European Union's commitment to double overall aid level by the year 2010, including a considerable increase of aid for Africa.

We support the establishment of a Democracy fund for countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democratic practices. In our view, this fund will contribute to maximizing the impact of development assistance by focusing on the improvement of governance standards. Transparent and democratic governance practices make quite a difference in the performance of countries that are otherwise quite similar in terms of their natural resources and social structure.

We emphasise the role of international trade in promoting economic growth and development, and thus in fighting poverty. We therefore add our voice to the calls for a rapid, ambitious and development- oriented completion of the Doha development round.

Furthermore, Lithuania is convinced that all development and all relevant strategies should have an in-built element of environmental sustainability. We welcome the language of the outcome document to this effect but urge to go further.

In particular, we underline the importance of going beyond Kyoto by initiating negotiations on the development of a more inclusive and equitable international framework for climate change beyond the year 2012.

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the strong and unconditional condemnation of terrorism in the outcome document. We call on the 60th session of the General Assembly to complete the work on a comprehensive convention on terrorism and a global counter-terrorism strategy as proposed by Secretary General earlier this year.

We welcome strongly the endorsement of responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing is of fundamental importance. This important step gives us hope that we shall no longer look away, we shall not stand idly as entire populations are being killed.

Lithuania fully supports the proposals regarding UN management reform. We hope the blueprint to be submitted by the Secretary General will not fall victim to endless debates by the member states and will lead to tangible changes, improving the organisation's accountability, transparency, efficiency, professionalism, and assuring the highest ethical standards.

Too often in the past, we have seen nations emerging from conflict lapse back into disruption and chaos, destabilizing entire regions. We therefore call for rapid progress in making the Peace Building Commission fully operational before the end of this year.

While expressing our satisfaction with the agreement to double resources for the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, we urge all nations to take conclusive decisions in the coming months on the basis of language agreed to by the vast majority of countries in establishing a robust and effective Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

At the same time, we have to admit that the outcome document is lacking considerably in some areas. We are well aware that the reform process is not a one-off event. As we proceed along the path of UN reform, we must make sure these areas are not left out.

First, the issue of impunity. The fight against impunity and the rendering of justice must be part and parcel of our common efforts to improve human rights situation world-wide. We stress our support for the International Criminal Court as well as existing ad hoc and mixed criminal tribunals and other mechanisms for international justice.

Second, the Security Council reform. We cannot delay it any further- especially if we really care to restore the authority and credibility of the United Nations. Security Council working methods must be improved to provide greater input of non-member states. Its membership must be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent seats, with due consideration of equitable geographical representation and the recent emergence of new major international actors and contributors.

Lithuania has long supported the candidacies of Germany and Japan as permanent Security Council members. We appreciate the aspirations of India and Brazil to undertake the honourable responsibility of permanent membership. And we agree that Africa's representation in both categories of membership is long overdue.

After eleven years of debates on the issue of Security Council reform, it is time to admit that we are unlikely to produce new arguments, without repeating ourselves to infinity. Lithuania therefore calls on all member states to assume the responsibility of action.

Mr. President,

Finally, let me touch upon the failure to agree, in the outcome document, on nonproliferation and disarmament. It is our major failure in the summit, especially in the light of the unfortunate conclusion of the NTP revision conference earlier this year. We must honor our earlier agreements and obligations. We must restore consensus and invest all our efforts in search of agreement on this crucial issue.

We therefore call on all nations to rally around the initiative put forward by Norway and a group of like-minded countries which, we believe, could become basis for viable consensus and future co-operative actions.

Mr. President,

Last December, we witnessed an unprecedented outburst of solidarity with the Asian tsunami victims. These past few weeks, our hearts were with the people of the United States whose citizens saw their lives shattered and whole communities destroyed by the hurricane Katrina. We offered whatever assistance we could to those affected- and we extend our condolences to all who suffered from this enormous devastation.

In moments of grief and sorrow we are one. Pain has no nationality, no religion or race. But so should our solidarity. We should not wait for new cataclysms and large-scale tragedies in order to agree on the necessity to build a renewed United Nations for the new century.

As Secretary General Kofi Annan has noted repeatedly, in this globalised inter-related world it is the collective interest that is often our best national interest.

Thank you.