

SAMOA



**60th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

STATEMENT BY

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Mr President

Samoa warmly congratulates you on your election to assume the presidency of the United Nations at this historic moment and at the most challenging of times. Samoa pledges to you and to Sweden its full support and cooperation throughout the 60th session of the General Assembly.

I also want to pay tribute to your predecessor, President Jean Ping of the Gabonese Republic, for his outstanding service and effective guidance during the 59th session.

Mr President

Only a few days ago in this very hall, we met to take stock of progress and map the way forward in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs are not merely a set of targets but encompasses a process which addresses the various challenges to human development. While some progress was made over the last five years, much more remains to be done.

It is therefore imperative that global and concerted effort be strengthened, in terms of political commitment and resources mobilization if the outcome of the summit envisaged in the Declaration of the Summit is to be achieved.

For Samoa, we are progressing well in achieving the MDGs by the target period of 2015. Challenges however remain and these are addressed through legislative and policy initiatives, and the creation of innovative partnerships with the donor community and the civil society.

Mr President

Samoa reiterates its support for the ongoing efforts to modernize and strengthen the United Nations. We thank the previous President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General for their laudable work and tireless efforts in advancing the reforms and revitalization of the Organization.

It is our belief that reform measures must provide for a transparent, democratic and enlarged Security Council, in both permanent and non-permanent membership, and an effective and strengthened Organization to reflect the realities of the 21st century. Substantive changes are therefore required both in the General Assembly and Security Council and in other bodies of the United Nations system. We congratulate President Ping in particular for his stewardship and leadership throughout the negotiations and the adoption of the Declaration of the Summit last week. This is the 60th anniversary of the United Nations and implementation surely must now start to revitalize our Organization to enable it to deliver effectively the principles and goals identified in the Declaration.

Mr President

The courageous efforts of the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to find a sustainable peace solution deserve applause and our prayers for success. While there have been positive developments in the Middle East, the violence and acts of terrorism in Iraq and in other parts of the region remain causes for grave concern.

Terrorism perpetrated by those with no respect for human decency and life continues to plague our world. No cause or grievance can justify acts that kill and maim innocent people. The heinous and murderous acts of terrorism serve only the purposes of those who want to destabilize communities and usher in a dark age for our world.

Samoa therefore condemns in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and will continue to support the international campaign and efforts to overcome this scourge to human dignity and security.

The peacekeeping and security advocacy work of the United Nations around the world has our full support. Samoa presently has police contingents serving with peacekeeping missions in Timor Leste and Liberia. Within our Pacific region, Samoa also contributes police to support the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) under the auspices of the Pacific Islands Forum. RAMSI conforms to regional responsibilities under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and recognizes the sovereignty of the Solomon Islands.

Mr President

Samoa is pleased to note that membership of the International Criminal Court will soon be a hundred. Samoa adds its voice to the call for early ratification and accession to the Rome Statute which establishes the Court by States who have yet to do so. The Court brings to justice those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and is therefore an important institution in upholding international humanitarian standards and the protection of human rights. For these reasons, it would be a mistake to undermine the effectiveness of the Court in any way. Instead, the Court should be given the necessary support to provide it the strength of universality.

Mr President,

Samoa remains extremely concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their threat not just to international peace and security but to the very existence of life in our world. We regret

deeply that the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty held in May this year was unable to agree on steps to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. The Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) together with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) provide the main instruments for controlling the spread of nuclear weapons.

The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty highlights the seriousness with which the issue of the threat of nuclear weapons is viewed in our region and we call on States who have not done so to ratify the Treaty's Protocols. Clearly, adherence to the requirements of the NPT, the CTBT and other conventions on disarmament is vital and Samoa joins the call for all UN members to sign on to these treaties and for States parties to honour the required obligations.

Small arms and light weapons have been shown time and again to turn conflict violent, destabilizing and devastating communities in many countries including the Pacific. The proliferation of small weapons is a major problem and we fully support the Review Conference on Small Arms next year and in particular its objective of concluding a Treaty to control the trade in small arms and stopping these from reaching areas of violent conflict.

Mr President

As current Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, I wish to inform that since our General Assembly session last year, new and positive developments have taken place in the Pacific region. The Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru, which is a regional response to assist Nauru rebuild its economy, is in progress. With the assistance from the United Nations, an autonomous government is now being established in Bougainville.

I am also pleased to announce that the Pacific Plan, a road map to further strengthen regional cooperation and integration to achieve our region's priority goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security, is nearing completion and is expected to be considered and approved by Pacific Forum leaders at their next Summit in Papua New Guinea in October this year. The Pacific Plan, in its implementation will also improve the capacities of the Pacific countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr President

The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in January this year, sets out the long term action plans for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

While we accept that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy towards the sustainable development of SIDS remains with us, there is however a critical need for sustained and long term commitment from our partners to focus on the 'special case' situation of SIDS and to take into account their specific vulnerabilities, and the consequential challenges these generate.

We therefore call on the United Nations system and the international community to provide the necessary support towards the implementation and monitoring of the Mauritius Strategy.

As has been repeated often from this rostrum, trade is the surest path to greater wealth and a vital component of sustainable development for small island developing States. We therefore support the successful conclusion of the Doha Round taking into full account the vulnerabilities of small States in the negotiations

particularly with regard to special and preferential treatment for small economies.

Mr President

Let me conclude by reaffirming Samoa's commitment to multilateralism and to the purpose and principles of the United Nations.

Thank you.