

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
**IN LARGER FREEDOM: TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY**  
**AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL**  
**(A/59/2005)**

**MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
**OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK, 7 APRIL 2005**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

With today's debate we begin the decisive part of our preparation for the High-level meeting in September 2005. The Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" offers a clear vision for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations. We are particularly pleased with the report's balanced approach to both development and security issues, based on the inextricable link between those two areas. Now it is up to us Member States to live up to the high expectations placed upon us, and to use the unique opportunity provided by the September Summit to the fullest. At the same time, we must ensure that there will be appropriate follow-up to other issues currently on the table, as contained in particular in the reports of the High-Level Panel and the Millennium Project, in all the appropriate fora.

Mr. President

We welcome the reform report before us and approach on the discussions on the basis of the conviction that the recognition of a link between all the major topics entails the need of having all issues addressed in an outcome document. At the same time, we will continue focusing our national efforts on those areas where we feel we can best make a contribution: Human rights, rule of law and Security Council reform. We are bound to repeat many of the things we have said during the informals organized by you, Mr. President, on the High-Level Panel and the Millennium Project report, and I will try to do so in as concise a manner as possible. We very much look forward to the more in-depth work that will be carried out on the four clusters identified by you.

Mr. President

The September Summit is first and foremost an opportunity to reinvigorate the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, with **development issues** at its core.

The Summit outcome document must therefore include a clear re-affirmation and commitment to the development consensus as agreed in Monterrey and Johannesburg and as spelled out in the Millennium Development Goals, on the basis of concrete, agreed steps to achieve those goals. Both developed and developing countries must step up their efforts in fulfilling their respective responsibilities. For developing countries this includes in particular stronger action on strengthening governance, combating corruption and facilitating private-sector led growth. Developed countries in turn must step up their official development assistance significantly, and establish timetables to reach the agreed target of 0.7 per cent ODA. Concrete measures are needed to fight extreme poverty, foster sustainable debt relief, open markets, promote gender equality, fight major diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Malaria, act decidedly against climate change and reduce the risks emanating from natural disasters. Only a bold breakthrough in 2005 will save us from missing this opportunity, enhance global security, and save the lives of millions.

Mr. President,

Regarding the area of peace and security, we fully endorse the call for a new security consensus. The Summit must acknowledge the diversity and interdependence of all security threats, and the shared responsibility of all for each other's security. But while the nature of these threats has evolved over the last 60 years, the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law developed since then remain the framework for our collective security. It is against the backdrop of the UN Charter that we commit ourselves to develop and implement comprehensive strategies against these threats and act on a number of levels:

- We must act urgently to implement the **Millennium Development Goals**, in order to make better progress in eradicating the scourges threatening the lives of millions of people and global human security;

- we must revitalize and continue to develop our legal framework for **non-proliferation and disarmament**, from the whole range of weapons of mass destruction to small arms and light weapons, whose death toll around the globe equally qualifies them as real weapons of mass destruction;
- we should endorse the proposed United Nations **counter-terrorism** strategy and its comprehensive approach which includes the defense of human rights in the fight against terrorism. Furthermore, we should commit ourselves to finalize the work on the comprehensive convention on terrorism in the course of the 60<sup>th</sup> session, and work for the speedy entry into force of the recently adopted Convention against Nuclear Terrorism;
- we must accept and act on our **responsibility to protect** people everywhere in the world in the event of genocide and other mass atrocities which national Governments are unwilling or unable to prevent;
- we must reaffirm the Charter's provisions on the **use of force**, including Article 51 on self-defense. This framework of legality should be complemented by agreed criteria of legitimacy of military force, which we understand not to be legally binding, but as a means of enhancing accountability of the Security Council in its decision-making on the use of force towards the Member States entrusting it with this great responsibility;
- we must furthermore act on the Secretary-General's recommendations in the areas of **peacekeeping and peacebuilding**, in particular the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. President,

Protecting the rule of law at the international and national level and protecting the vulnerable are at the heart of a strong multilateral system. The Summit should clearly reaffirm the commitment to the rule of law at the national and international level and we must also agree on concrete measures to strengthen the rule of law in the daily work of the UN. We should mainstream the concept of **rule of law** throughout the UN system, and start off with ensuring in particular that the United

Nations itself respects this concept. In this regard, decisive action is warranted in various areas, from preventing abusive and criminal behavior by UN personnel to ensuring due process and basic standards of humanity for individuals targeted by Security Council sanctions. The Summit must result in an unequivocal reaffirmation of the commitment of all Member States to **international law** and further be seized as an opportunity by States to sign or ratify the most important multilateral treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and other treaties for the protection of civilians. We also welcome the Secretary-General's suggestion to reaffirm the important role of the **International Court of Justice**, and to start a process to strengthen the work of the Court. In addition to practical measures to be taken by the Court itself, Liechtenstein would particularly welcome increased recourse to the advisory function of the Court, including through the referral of legal questions by the Secretary-General.

Mr. President,

The success of our actions on almost all of the above-mentioned issues is inextricably linked to the efficiency and legitimacy of the United Nations bodies dealing with them. All the main organs of the United Nations require major reform efforts, and the Summit provides a unique opportunity to lay the groundwork for these reforms. If many believe that UN reform cannot be complete without Security Council reform, it needs to be emphasized that UN reform cannot be complete without General Assembly reform.

We welcome the Secretary-General's bold recommendation to replace the Commission on Human Rights with a **Human Rights Council**. The Summit should make a decision in principle on this important question, and establish a process, including a timetable, which will clarify the details of such a new body, including mandate, modalities for elections of its members, and the relationship with other principal organs. We were gratified to hear that the Secretary-General expressed the same view on the process leading to the establishment of a Human Rights Council

when he addressed the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva today. In our view, the Human Rights Council should be a principal organ of the United Nations, and its size should allow for a diverse membership representing the whole range of Member States, small and large. The Human Rights Council should become the main forum for human rights discussions and replace, not duplicate, the respective work of the General Assembly. To end duplication must be one of the prime goals of reform in this area, whatever the final institutional structure, as outlined in our national proposal on the reform of the intergovernmental human rights bodies. We fully agree that the Human Rights Council should be in session throughout the year, in order to be able to respond quickly to emergencies.

On **reform of the Security Council**, we reiterate the need for a comprehensive reform, with strong emphasis given to a substantial outcome on cluster II issues, i.e. the working methods of the Security Council. A larger Council will not, in itself, be a better Council and many of the aspects of the work of the Security Council under discussion have their source in the working methods. We also continue to believe that the membership should remain open-minded vis-à-vis enlargement models that go beyond those contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

The **General Assembly** needs another major overhaul in order to be restored to its rightful place, as enunciated in Millennium Declaration. Practical measures such as the strengthening of the role of the President and of the General Committee, and a thorough streamlining of its agenda and work program, including more frequent resort to biennialization and triennialization of resolutions, are important to achieve this end. However, the most important element is the resolve of States to use this main organ of the organization in a manner consistent with the role given to it under the Charter.

Finally, Liechtenstein is very supportive of the Secretary-General's proposals on the strengthening of the **UN Secretariat**. Increased authority and flexibility for the

Secretary-General to manage his staff and operations must go hand in hand with strengthened management practices and accountability. Member States should work determinedly with the Secretary-General to improve budget and human resource rules in order to better tailor them to the needs of the organization.

I thank you.