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PERMANENT MISSION  
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Address by H. E. Mr. Fatos Nano  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania  
to the General Debate of the 59th Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly

New York, 21 September 2004



We truly convinced that the respect and protection of human rights and freedoms are the main pillars of a pluralist democratic society. The Government of the Republic of Albania has constantly demonstrated that it fully implements the standards enshrined in the United Nations and Council of Europe Conventions, as well as the relevant documents of regional organisations, such as the OSCE, in which is playing a very active role. It will continue to do so in the future as well. By adopting a contemporary legislation and by becoming a party to other recently adopted international instruments on human rights, such as the Additional Protocol of the United Nations Convention for the Prevention of Torture, Albania has associated itself with the countries that are implementing a number of national strategies and programmes that focus on specific population groups such as women, children, persons in need, minorities, etc.

The Albanian Government has in recent years started to periodically submit reports to the Committees of the six main UN Conventions on human rights and is taking their recommendations into consideration. It is our belief that these international mechanisms should play a significant and important role as guardians of the common human values we have together adopted as representatives of our peoples.

Albania, as one of the 191 countries signatories of the Millennium Declaration, is fully committed to implement the Millennium Development Goals, which have been properly reflected in the National Strategy for Social and Economic Development adopted by the Albanian Government. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the United Nations specialised Agencies for their valuable assistance in support of the implementation of these objectives on a central and local level.

Mr. President,

The Albanian government is pleased to note that an ever healthier climate of confidence and relations of bilateral and multilateral cooperation are prevailing in the South East European region. The countries of the region are fully engaged in a process that will lead them dearly toward Euro-Atlantic integration and at the same time constantly away from extremist and ultra nationalist tendencies that caused a number of conflicts in the last decade. The regional policy of the government I chair is guided by the motto: "More Atlantic enshrined. Th, uided breA

Atlantic structures, as well as attracting financing for national and regional projects in priority fields such as energy, transportation and telecommunication.

Mr President,

In its European integration road, our region, still is facing with such pending

that directly or indirectly impact on carrying out terrorism activities. Thirdly, no country can be successful alone in the fight against terrorism. In this context, it is of very important to strengthen the international cooperation both among states and between the latter and global or regional international organisations, among which the United Nations plays an irreplaceable role.

The Albanian Government has been constantly committed to making its contribution as an active member of the international coalition against terrorism. It has its peace keeping troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has signed and ratified, and now is implementing the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols against terrorism. It is doing the same with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, cooperating closely with the structures established under these resolutions and presenting regular reports to them. The Albanian Government salutes the decision of the Security Council to play an active role in the fight against threats coming from possession and trafficking of weapons of mass destruction. It supports the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 of 2004. Albania has, on the other hand, taken all measures for the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources of the IAEA, convinced that this international instrument is extremely important to prevent threats stemming from misuse of radioactive materials. Albania has already taken the decision and in the coming weeks will sign the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement of the IAEA.

This year Albania also joined the Proliferation Security Initiative whose aim is to identify, through a set of principles, concrete steps to prevent trafficking of WMD, their launching systems and materials used to produce them.

Mr. President,

Peace and stability have not been fully established in certain regions of the world. The United Nations and the Security Council are the organs mandated by the Charter to preserve peace and security in the world. It is only natural that high in their agenda are still settlement of crisis situations in hot spots in the globe, such as Iraq, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Sudan, etc. This requires the full engagement of the international community in finding most suitable and lasting solutions for these situations as well as the further enhancement of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations structures.

The Albanian Government has welcomed the unanimous adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1546 of 8 June on Iraq, approving the provisional government of Iraq and transferring over to it the authority and sovereignty, the independence and territorial integrity of Iraq, the control of the Iraqi Government of the armed forces and the holding of democratic elections in January 2005. The progress made in Iraq is due to the cooperation between the Iraqi government forces and those of the coalition.

The Albanian Government follows with great concern the developments in the Middle East. Like the whole international community, we too, do hope in putting an end to the deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories where violence towards the civilian population has increased with taking a heavy toll of innocent lives, including women and children. On the other hand, we condemn any terrorist act against the civilian population irrespective in whose name they are committed. The Albanian Government strongly believes that peace can and should be achieved only through negotiation. It is convinced that the Security Council, the Quartet and the international community do have the possibility to establish a stable peace in Palestine and the whole of the Middle East region based on the Security Council Resolutions and the Road Map. The international community should continue to monitor closely the implementation of the Road Map in order to avoid deviation, change, misinterpretations and blocking of it by the parties in the conflict.

Current developments and realities on the international arena, the acute problems