

# GHANA



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## STATEMENT BY

### HIS EXCELLENCY ALHAJI ALIU MAHAMA

GHANA

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the distinct honor to congratulate you, Mr. President, a distinguished African diplomat, on your election to preside over the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of this august Assembly and to wish you success in your undertaking. I would also like to commend your predecessor, Mr. Julian Hunte, for the dedication and commitment, which he brought to bear on his stewardship of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session.

Mr. President,

Three years ago, a terrible tragedy hit this city. The unprecedented terrorist attacks of September 11 resulted in the death of thousands of innocent people of many nationalities, including some from my own country of Ghana. The whole world shared the pain and sorrow of New York in the aftermath of those atrocities. Also, the whole world rose in solidarity with the people of the United States to ensure that such tragedies do not happen again.

Mr. President, 11<sup>th</sup> September reminds us of the importance of seeking a multilateral and peaceful means for the maintenance of international peace and security, especially now when it has become evident that only collective, multilateral efforts will suffice to defeat the new scourge of mankind - global terrorism.

The UN has an indispensable role to play, being the most universal and representative intergovernmental organization, and the best forum for the practice of multilateralism. However, the success of multilateralism and collective security will depend on how the reforms of the UN system are implemented. In this regard, we applaud the initiative of our illustrious compatriot, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in setting up the High-Level Panel on Threats and Challenges to the UN, to make proposals on how the UN can best be reformed to meet the new challenges of our world.

We in Africa agree that the objectives of the UN reforms including the revitalization of the General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council are to enhance the role of the Organization and its capacity to overcome current threats and emerging challenges. The reforms should be in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the process must be based on full consultations in a democratic and transparent manner. To this end, we look forward to a revitalized General Assembly that would assume its rightful position as the most authoritative and representative organ of the United Nations.

With regard to the Security Council, the African position emphasizes the need to democratize and ensure equitable geographical representation, with Africa allotted no less than two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats in the expanded Security Council.

Mr. President,

I wish now to address the crucial issue of poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries, where widespread poverty is endemic, particularly in Africa. As we strive to overcome our current economic woes, we need the world's solidarity, resources, technical know-how and support. The historic United Nations Millennium Summit, which brought together 189 nations in September 2000 and adopted the Millennium Declaration, was a clarion call for action to solve these problems and set forth the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with measurable goals and targets for combating them. The international community on that occasion pledged "to spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty."

Africa has adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which reaffirms our belief that Africans have the primary responsibility to solve the problems of poverty, hunger, disease, and illiteracy afflicting the majority of our population and to stem Africa's marginalisation from global markets. In tandem, we

focus on the promotion of peace and security and sustained development for the benefit of the peoples of the continent.

It is disheartening though to observe that, despite the good intentions of the international community, exemplified at the various international fora that have followed the Millennium Summit, there has not been any significant achievement due to the absence of a genuine global partnership for development. There continues to be an agonizing paradox between summit and conference declarations of a new global partnership and the persistence of an asymmetrical global system that works

Mr. President, Ghana attaches great importance to the empowerment of women to make them equal partners in the formulation and implementation of development policies. Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, gender equality has been an essential element of Ghana's efforts to attain sustainable development. The active involvement of women in political processes and decision-making at all levels and in all sectors is being vigorously pursued. Impediments such as discrimination and violence against women are being dealt with through education, advocacy and legislation.

Mr. President, despite the strong political will within the international community to create a world fit for children, the reality in many parts of the world is a far cry from the ideals voiced at the special session of the General Assembly. We call for the adoption of effective policies to eradicate poverty, ensure access to education and provide families with support to guarantee the well-being of children. Decisive international cooperation is also required to strengthen legal and other preventive mechanisms to tackle effectively the increasing practice of child trafficking for unimaginable exploitative purposes.

Ghana believes that the staff of the Organization, who sacrifice daily to maintain peace and security in zones of conflict and humanitarian disaster, deserve to be provided with a secure and safe environment in which to operate. In this regard, we have condemned and will continue to condemn any attack against United Nations personnel and call for firm action by States to establish conditions that prevent such attacks, in fulfillment of the obligations of host countries towards the United Nations and its personnel.

Ghana, as a major troop contributing country, would continue to support United Nations peacekeeping operations globally, as well as in Africa. This commitment, which begun with our participation in the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) in 1960, is borne out of the firm moral conviction of our solidarity for humanity and the knowledge that the lack of peace and stability anywhere can be a real threat to peace and security for all of us.

In conclusion, I urge Member States individually and collectively to rededicate themselves to the ideals that underpin this Organization and provide it with commensurate resources as it strives to attain the aspirations of the peoples of the world. We cannot, we should not and must not fail in this undertaking.

I thank you.