



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
KHOTSONG
204 East 39th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

STATEMENT BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PAKALITHA B. MOSISILI, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

DELIVERED AT THE
FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 23RD 2004

NEW YORK

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping, President of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;
Your Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President, allow me on behalf of my delegation to join previous speakers in congratulating You on Your election to the presidency of this session. In the same breath, to extend our complements to Your predecessor, His Excellency, Mr. Julian Hunte and the Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan for a job well done.

Mr. President, if there has been one consistent and predictable area of convergence in our debates at the sessions of the UN General Assembly of the past and of today, it is the compelling need for a peaceful and stable world. A world where humankind lives in harmony, mutual tolerance and respect for collective benefit. For, with peace and stability at the national, regional and international levels, humankind would be able to concentrate on the real issues of the development of our only world.

Mr. President, never before has our world become so insecure, and faced such enormous challenges as today. Sadly, this insecurity emanates from man's insensitivity and inhumanity to human life. Yet, it is equally through man's efforts, that the effects of these challenges *can and* must be mitigated or better still, defeated.

Mr. President, the list of challenges facing us today is inexhaustive. I need only mention: -

- * World insecurity;
- * HIV and AIDS pandemic;
- * Poverty; and
- * High unemployment rates.

Mr. President, it is common knowledge that the root cause of the world's insecurity today is international terrorism and armed conflicts. Terrorist actions continue to haunt and shock us. The recent murder of innocent, young and defenceless school children in Beslan, Russia; the bombings in

Indonesia; and daily killings in Iraq, Palestine and Israel are simply too ghastly to countenance. Equally, the recent massacres of men, women and children in refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Sudan are not only dastardly in the extreme, but in stark contrast to everything modern civilization, humanity and morality espouse.

Our world shall continue to be insecure for as long as terrorists continue to be harboured and financed by some Member States of the UN. We must recognize that none of us is immune from terrorism. We must confront terrorism head on, as they say, "Fire with fire". But a more honest and practical solution would be, for all Member States of the UN to commit themselves not to harbour or finance terrorists and their organisations. In that way, terrorists would have no safe haven, thus rendering it possible to chase them from pillar to post, until terrorist organizations are eliminated from our world. Yet another equally pragmatic solution may be found, we submit, in the answer to the question: - "what is it that drives an inherently good human being to commit such inhuman and senseless acts of state terrorism, organizational terrorism or individual terrorism"? In short, we must confront the causes of terrorism in all honesty and without malice to anybody.

Mr. President, Lesotho is deeply concerned that armed conflicts continue to cause suffering, and hinder economic growth in Africa and elsewhere. However, we commend the United Nations for all its efforts aimed at the elimination of human suffering in armed conflict situations. When this august Assembly adopted the historic resolution on the prevention of armed conflicts, in July 2003, it recognized that multilateral cooperation, under the auspices of the United Nations, could be an effective means to prevent armed conflict and to address its root causes. Furthermore, it acknowledged the responsibility of the United Nations to stand up to the challenge of preventing, rather than just responding to, conflicts. Let me take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation for the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, presented at this Session, on the implementation of that important resolution.

Mr. President, for years now, the situation in Somalia has posed a threat to international peace and security. The swearing-in of Somalia's transitional Parliament on 22 August 2004, in Nairobi, Kenya, paves the way to genuine recovery for Somalia. In this regard, my delegation compliments the Government of Kenya, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

Mr. President, my delegation has never condoned the killings of the Israelis by the Palestinians or of the Palestinians by the Israelis. We have always looked into the root cause of the problem in the Middle East, which is the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands by Israel. That problem has been exacerbated by the construction of a separation wall by Israel, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, on 9 July 2004, rendered its advisory opinion, that such a construction was contrary to international law. We, therefore, appeal to Israel to implement the important resolution adopted by the General Assembly in view of the ICJ advisory opinion. Moreover, it is our submission that, unless and until, the issue of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People is addressed vigorously, urgently and truthfully, peace and security shall remain illusive in the Middle East.

Mr. President, perhaps we have to recall that, four years ago, we were gathered in this very hall with hope for and anticipation of a better life for all humankind in the twenty-first century, as we adopted the Millennium

AIDS pandemic, as they complement and strengthen our own initiatives and limited resources.

Mr. President, my delegation reiterates the call for increased support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is the framework for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. It is another mechanism that will enable African countries to fight the HIV and AIDS pandemic, to eradicate poverty and to reduce high unemployment. In the same context, the Millennium Challenge Account is indeed a worthy and commendable initiative by the Government of the United States of America to launch the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on the road to sound and sustainable development.

Mr. President, the prevailing situations in Western Sahara and Cuba continue to be of major concern. My delegation will, because it must, repeat the statement we have made on many previous occasions that the people of Western Sahara have suffered long enough. We have, therefore, noted with appreciation the latest reaffirmation by the Security Council of its support for the 1991 settlement plan, allowing the nationals of Western Sahara to determine the future of the disputed territory in a referendum. We hope that the referendum will be held soon.

By the same token, Mr. President, the unilateral economic embargo against Cuba is causing untold misery to the people of Cuba. To my delegation,

Statute of the International Criminal Court could adhere to it; and also, if the Court could attain universal jurisdiction. My delegation encourages states that have not yet ratified the Statute to do so as a matter of urgency and commonsense.

We are pleased to note that the ICC has commenced investigations in the DRC and Uganda.