

ADDRESS
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

BY

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

H.E. Dr. BERNARD BOT

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General Debate

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on track in increasing its ODA to 0.39% of GNP in 2006 as part of a longer-term effort to raise ODA contributions to 0.7% of GNP.

8. **Combating HIV/AIDS**

14. Which brings me to the issue of human rights - another common concern. Human rights lie at the core of the work of the United Nations. The EU fully agrees with Secretary-General Annan's statement that terrorism must not be used as an excuse to trample on human rights. States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. We must protect the universal values and fundamental freedoms whose enjoyment is seriously impaired by acts of terrorism.
15. The European Union is a committed supporter of initiatives to improve the implementation of human rights obligations world-wide and at country level. The EU recognises the responsibility of the international community to protect mankind from genocide, war crimes, and grave and massive violations of human rights. The EU welcomes the introduction of the human rights-based approach into the work of all UN agencies and programmes. This will ensure that UN assistance activities contribute to achieving such rights for everyone everywhere. Our own initiatives in that area often complement and strengthen those initiated within the UN framework. We especially welcome the close cooperation between the EU and the UN special mechanisms in respect of children in armed conflict and human rights defenders.
16. The valuable work being done by the UN, especially by the Special Rapporteur against Torture, in pursuit of the prevention and eradication of all forms of torture is strongly supported by the EU. The EU would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its opposition to the death penalty.
17. The European Union stresses the importance of the International Criminal Court in putting an end to impunity and strengthening the rule of law throughout the world. It will pursue its efforts to ensure the widest possible ratification of, and accession to, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
18. The world needs a United Nations that can intervene decisively to prevent, limit, and put an end to military conflicts. An estimated 40% of countries emerging from civil wars relapse into conflict within five years. The lesson – familiar but often forgotten – is that the United Nations system must be better attuned to how such conflicts can be prevented and peace preserved. No matter how difficult, preventing conflict and preserving a precarious peace is less costly than intervening in a full-blown conflict.
19. The European Union is aware of its responsibility in that area and is increasing its capabilities to maintain its already significant contribution to conflict prevention, international crisis management and peacekeeping operations. It will also continue to assist other regional organisations to enhance their own crisis management capabilities. The United Nations must intensify its cooperation with those organisations, in part with a view to enhancing their capacity for crisis management in accordance with Chapter VIII of its Charter. To that end, the EU is working with the UN Secretariat to implement the EU-UN Declaration of September 2003 on Cooperation in Crisis Management.
20. Several regional issues warrant special attention. The Middle East Peace Process must be put back on track. That means that the entire international community must back the Road Map – the only road to an agreed negotiated two-State solution. The EU and

its Quartet partners will remain engaged in the search for a settlement. The European Union thinks that this Assembly can make an important contribution to that objective by focusing on substantive issues in the peace process and adopting a pragmatic and constructive approach towards this problem.

21. The Security Council's unanimous adoption of Resolution 1546 marks the restoration of sovereignty to Iraq. The European Union wholeheartedly supports the political process and the new Iraqi interim government and calls on all member states to do the same. It gives its full backing to the holding of democratic elections in January 2005. It is committed to unwavering support of the United Nations' pivotal role in that country. The Iraqi people have suffered so much and deserve the chance to have a better life. Let us offer them that chance.
22. In a similar vein, the process of securing stability, reconstruction and democratisation in Afghanistan must remain an international priority. The Afghans are desperate for peace. They demand a say in their country's future. Over 10.3 million Afghans, more than 40% of them women, have registered to vote in the presidential elections on 9 October. There can be no better sign of their enthusiasm for democracy. The EU will

27. The EU itself is an example of multilateralism at work. Conflicting interests and diverging views still exist within the EU, as they do everywhere. But conflicts are resolved in the framework of common institutions and binding rules. Multilateralism works. A rule-based international order is possible. And necessary. The EU will strive to achieve that goal everywhere.