



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe
to the United Nations*

STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY R. G. MUGABE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

TO THE

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

Mr President, I am delighted to congratulate you, a distinguished son of Africa, upon your election as President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly. Indeed, at a time when the community of nations has committed itself to paying due attention to issues that relate to development. in Africa, through support for NEPAD and other mechanisms, your Presidency gives us the hope and confidence that our concerns and aspirations and those of others will remain high on the agenda of this august body. Let me also express our sincere appreciation to your predecessor, Mr Julian

Hunte, for the efficient and exemplary manner in which he conducted the business of the 58th Session.

Mr President, at the 58th Session, I spoke about the need to reform the United Nations and its related bodies so as to make them more democratic. I stressed the perils inherent in the status quo, particularly, with regard to the dominance of global politics by one superpower and its closest allies. While we welcome the current debate on enhancing the authority and role of the United Nations, we wish to stress the need to address the core issue of democratisation of international governance. Debate on the reform of the Security Council has been too long-drawn because of attempts calculated to protect those whose interests are best served by the status quo.

Ironically, it is some of the same forces that, since last year, have been raining bombs and hell-fire on innocent Iraqis purportedly in the name of democracy. Iraq today has become a vast inferno created by blatant and completely illegal and defiant acts of aggression by the United States, Britain and their allies, in the full trail of

which the world has witnessed mass destruction of both human lives and property, and with them our human rights, values, morality and the norms of international law as enshrined in our Charter. We are now being coerced to accept and believe that a new doctrine has arisen, namely that "There is but one political god, George W. Bush, and Tony Blair is his prophet". Mr President, the U.N. Charter remains the only most sacred document and proponent of the relations of our Nations. Anything else is political heresy!

Mr President, we note that the Secretary General has placed before the General Assembly, the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the United Nations Civil Society Relations. While civil society makes a significant contribution to the work of the United Nations, we hope any arrangements that will eventually be agreed upon will recognize that the United Nations remains an inter-State and inter-governmental body. It is

recognise the different levels of development of civil society in different parts of the world.

Mr President, as we prepare for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration in September 2005, it is apparent that many developing countries, including my own country, Zimbabwe, may be unable to meet the goals and targets set, as our sub-region of Southern Africa has recently experienced extended and successive periods of inclement weather, principally droughts, that wreaked havoc upon our economies and accordingly diminished our capacity to achieve the Millennium Declaration targets. The situation, particularly, with regards to the health and education sectors, has also been worsened by the brain drain and the devastating effects of the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Mr President, in this regard, Zimbabwe welcomes the continuing efforts by this community of nations to find solutions to the scourge of HIV and AIDS that has ravaged our peoples and economies. At the national level, we have taken measures, within our limited means,

to combat the pandemic. We are also coordinating our efforts at

Zimbabwean people who, through their sovereign vote, can make and unmake our governments. In any case, we reject completely the pretended assertions of democracy by our former colonial masters, whose undemocratic regimes we taught the lesson of one man or one woman one vote through our liberation struggles. Here in the United States we remain aware of the plight of the Black American of both yesterday and to-day and of the semi-slave and half-citizen status that has been his burden. Have the Blacks in the U.S.A. got equal politics, social and economic rights and status as their white counterparts?

I wish to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my Government and that of the people of Zimbabwe for the humanitarian assistance we received from the international community during our period of need. Without such support, we would not have been able to avert a major catastrophe.

I am pleased to inform you Mr President that we have, in spite of the sanctions and evil wishes of Britain and its

allies, now emerged from that difficult phase. We had a relatively good agricultural season this year and our Land Reform Programme has begun to make a significant contribution towards the turn-around of our economy. Despite the partial drought at the beginning of the season, we have managed this year to realise a good harvest, certainly, one good enough to ensure that we meet our food requirements until the next season. We plead with the IMF to stop its strange political mouthings, lies and fabrications about our situation. Our own regional organisations know the truth about Zimbabwe.

Mr President, my Government is determined to eliminate corruption and its corrosive effects on national development efforts. After signing the International Convention against Corruption in November last year, we have put in place legal and administrative measures that have already arrested a growing and deliberate tendency to circumvent normal business practices, particularly, in the financial services sector. Our efforts have, however, experienced some set-backs as some

countries, particularly in the developed West, provide safe havens for fugitive economic saboteurs from our country.

Mr President, in March next year, Zimbabwe will be holding its sixth democratic parliamentary elections since

We are seriously concerned that the United Nations, the pre-eminent instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security, watched helplessly while Iraq was plundered by the US and UK-led so-called coalition of the willing. Such belligerent gun-slitting diplomacy and illegitimate territorial occupation of the state of Iraq are blemishes on the fair play image of the UN.

While the sadistic scenes from Abu Ghraib remain vivid in our minds, other places in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay have provided useful samples of the Western concept of respect for human rights. Let me say once again that the West should spare us their lessons on human rights. They do not have the moral authority to speak about, let alone, parade themselves, as torch-bearers of human rights.

Mr President, Zimbabwe remains deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East. We continue to be revulsed by a situation where the collective decisions

and authority of the United Nations are disregarded with impunity on account of *big brother* support. We demand an immediate lifting of all restrictions illegally imposed on the Palestinian people, which have seen President Yasser Arafat remain a virtual prisoner of foreign occupation. We welcome the recent opinion given by the International Court of Justice that found the construction of the Israeli wall to be in contravention of international

contribute to the fulfilment of the aims and purpose of the United Nations.

I thank you.

RGM/ak