



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

ADDRESS

BY PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA JANEZ JANŠA
AT THE 62nd SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
New York, 27 September 2007

Mr President,

Let me first express my gratitude to your predecessor, Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, for her leadership. To you, I assure full support on behalf of Slovenia. We also look forward to cooperating with Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

*Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

An important part of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly will coincide with a period of increased international responsibility for Slovenia. We will do our best to make good use of this opportunity and to benefit not only Europe, but also the international community as a whole. The United Nations will be at the heart of our efforts. This organization still represents humankind in the best possible way.

The discussions of this week have proved that the global community has identified the challenges brought about by human impact on the environment. The will to find solutions under the auspices of the UN, was clearly expressed. Primacy of the world organization is required by the sheer dimension and complexity of the issue.

Today, environmental change occurs all over the world. Slovenia pins great hopes on a regional approach. At the global level, we support the principle of common, but different, responsibilities. A common approach is necessary due to the considerable impact of climate change, also on global security and stability. Country-specific solutions should allow space for realizing development potential. Slovenia takes its commitments in the area of climate change within the European framework very seriously. The European Union has showed the will and ability to take global initiative. We hope that such examples will set the dominant tone of the whole discussion, from Bali and further on to the new framework for the period after 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Slovenia welcomes the progress made so far in the process of UN reform, and will continue to work towards the more responsive, effective and representative United Nations.

The role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security is indispensable. This year, more than 10 percent of the members of the Slovenian Armed Forces participated in missions abroad under the mandate of the UN Security Council. The majority of them helped to strengthen peace and stability in South Eastern Europe, and also in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq and elsewhere.

In the last decade and a half, the international community has dedicated considerable human and financial resources to the region of the Balkans. It is therefore important that the dividends of peace are not wasted at the end of the stabilization process. Solutions that are sustainable for all involved should be pursued to secure these dividends, which should then be further invested in the common European project.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The international community must, within the framework of the UN, complete the creation of mechanisms that respond to the challenges of the 21st century. Finalizing the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism must remain one of the key priorities. Another challenge remains actual application of the concept of the responsibility to protect.

Even the most determined efforts for global security have little chance for success under conditions of inequality. Therefore, achieving the Millennium Development Goals is of paramount importance. Creating equal opportunities for and solidarity with the disadvantaged are sustainable investments in world peace. Only when developed countries as well as developing countries opt for them will the advantages of current world economic growth be more fairly distributed.

Slovenia was very pleased to become a member of the Human Rights Council. The trust we have been given will be repaid by our active and open efforts for implementation of human rights standards. We will continue to support the policy of global abolition of the death penalty.

Slovenia attaches great importance to the concept of human security, which corresponds to the cornerstones of the United Nations – development, safety and human rights. Special attention is paid to children. The youngest victims of violence, poverty and deadly pandemics are also the most powerless. Therefore, it remains true: "A man never stands so tall as when he kneels to help a child."

In this respect, Slovenia is particularly proud of its excellent cooperation with the non-governmental sector. The foundation "Together", which concerns itself with the psychosocial well-being of children in societies affected by armed conflict, and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance were founded as a result of Slovenia's initiatives aiming at the wider region.

Slovenia actively participates in initiatives on intercultural dialogue. In doing so, we pay special attention to the Mediterranean area. We hope to see the early establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean university, which would be a Slovenian contribution to raising awareness of the need for peaceful coexistence of different cultures and worldviews.

*Mr President of the General Assembly,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, one of the chief architects of the United Nations, predicted, at the birth of the world organization, that changes would be a regular feature of its development. And indeed, the United Nations is still being constructed today. The great hopes of humankind depend on this common, never-to-be-completed work of ours. It is with this in mind that I wish the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations every success.