



Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain
to the United Nations
New York

STATEMENT

By

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To the
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General Assembly

New York
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In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to convey my congratulations upon your election as President of this Session. There is no doubt that your expertise and your knowledge of international affairs will ensure another successful Session this year, which will contribute to achieving people's aspirations for the United Nations.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to Her Excellency our sister Shaikha Haya Bint Rashid Al-Khalifa, previous President of the General Assembly in its 61st Session, for guiding the Session with her ability and wisdom, resulting in the tabling of serious ideas which achieved tangible results for the development of the Organization and the revitalization of its role. In this respect, we want to register our appreciation for all delegations for the spirit of cooperation extended to her during her Presidency.

I have the pleasure also to thank His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his continued efforts in strengthening and developing the role of the United Nations. We are confident that Secretary-General's long experience as an able diplomat will enable him to exercise further efforts in strengthening the effectiveness of our international Organization.

Mr. President,

Our joint endeavours to achieve peace, prosperity and justice in the world require us to face the challenges and the dangers confronting our world today from a standpoint of faith in our one human destiny. We should realise that international security is based on joint efforts to guarantee regional security and the stability of states. At the same time, international peace requires respect for international legitimacy, the rule of law, guaranteeing justice and strengthening multilateralism. Since comprehensive development is a national and international requirement, it is important for us to face in a collective and serious manner all forms of threats, such as conflicts, wars, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, environmental disasters, poverty, backwardness, and extremism, in accordance with the principles and goals

stated in the United Nations Charter and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Mr. President,

The UN resolution containing the Millennium Declaration is a unique and pioneering work, which embodied the consensus of world leaders who set out the goals needed to achieve it. In this respect, the Kingdom of Bahrain is proud, by the grace of God, to have witnessed comprehensive political developments in its democratic march under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, including free and fair elections with broad participation. Meanwhile, its comprehensive development efforts were crowned by the United Nations presenting the 2006 Special Citation of the UN Habitat Scroll of Honour to His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, reflecting the international appreciation of the developments which have been, and continue to be, witnessed by the Kingdom. The social and economic achievements, under the patronage also of H.H Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, have continued unabated, based on strategies and policies designed to ensure the welfare of all citizens by encouraging investment, strengthening national human rights machineries, reforming the labour market and developing education.

In the decades after the establishment of the United Nations Organization, our world witnessed both unipolar and bipolar systems. The universal development of events, and the results that emanated therefrom, it proved that these systems were not enough in guaranteeing security, peace, stability and prosperity in the world. Therefore, the time is now right to enable everybody to participate effectively in our universal system, which is based on a just multilateralism that guarantees collective work toward achieving its goals.

Mr. President,

As a United Nations, we pledge in the Charter, in the name of the peoples, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and affirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in a manner that calls upon the international community to treat in a quick and effective manner the dangers that threaten global security and peace. Foremost of these are outstanding regional issues faced by the Middle East in various axes, and embodied foremost by the situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

In this respect, we welcome the initiative of His Excellency George Bush, President of the United States, to hold an international conference on Middle East peace during this year, in the hope that this will be a new stage in dealing with the core of Arab-Israeli conflict in a fair and just manner that would put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people and to the occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories from 1967, the establishment of an independent, contiguous and viable Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Such a state will exist within a framework that guarantees peace and stability for all states in the region, including Israel, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, United Nations resolutions and other international covenants.

The second axis is represented by the events in brotherly Iraq, whose people suffer from insecurity and instability as a result of the ceaseless waves of violence and the killing of innocents. In our view, the responsibility to break out of this closed circle rests primarily on the Iraqi people and leadership, to achieve a national reconciliation and stability. In order to enable the Iraqi people to succeed, there must be no interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and its borders must be respected. We stress here the importance of continuing the assistance and support of neighbouring states, the Arab League and the United Nations, for the legitimate Iraqi government in its efforts to maintain security and stability in Iraq, and to preserve its Arab and Islamic identity.

Mr. President,

It seems clear that alleviating the instability in Lebanon is closely bound with free national reconciliation and strengthening of national efforts and Arab and international support for Lebanese legitimacy to preserve security,

safety and stability of Lebanon, which is an integral part of regional security and peace in the Middle East. In this respect, we wish to express our regret at the killing in Lebanon of a number of politicians and officials as well as other innocent Lebanese people. We hope that Lebanon will overcome this current crisis so that its people can live in security and peace.

The stability and unity of Sudan is a fundamental pillar for the political, economic and social unity of Africa. We commend the decision of brotherly Republic of Sudan to agree on the deployment of a joint United Nations - African Union force in Darfur. In this context, we hope that the parties to the conflict in Sudan will come together for the sake of their country and its prosperity.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Bahrain has become a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, through its conviction of the important role played by the Agency in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. In order to avoid a nuclear arms race in the Middle East; the Kingdom of Bahrain underlines the importance of freeing the region from nuclear weapons. It therefore urges the concerned parties, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to be more transparent and to cooperate fully in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, so as to build confidence among neighbouring states in the Gulf. The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms the right of all states to utilize nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It also demands that Israel place all its nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the IAEA, and to become a party to the NPT in order to promote the Treaty's universality.

In order to contribute to promoting friendly relations and cooperation between member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms the rights of the brotherly United Arab Emirates to recover its three occupied islands. It hopes that the two countries will increase their efforts and contacts to solve this issue through direct negotiations, or through transferring the issue to the International Court of Justice.

Mr. President,

Climate change has become one of the most dangerous challenges threatening the world and facing humanity. Climate change relates not only

to the environment, but also affects severely our world's economic and social orders, and hinders the process of development. We therefore call upon all to co-operate in order to achieve solutions and find ways to deal with this phenomenon, and in this respect, I want to commend the High Level Meeting convened on 24th September 2007 in New York by the United Nations Secretary General, concerning climate change under the title "The Future in Our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change".

Mr. President,

Our faith in the our single human destiny requires us to consolidate a culture of peace, brotherhood and dialogue between all peoples, and to abandon phenomena of hatred, discrimination and division, such as that which has been dubbed "Islamophobia", and which some are promoting to incite upheaval and hatred between people in order to serve their narrow political ends. The minds of those individuals forget that Islam is one of the monotheistic faiths, which stress brotherhood, love, co-existence and tolerance. We hope, in this context, that the high-level dialogue, to be held by the General Assembly on 4th and 5th October, will contribute to encouraging the values of tolerance, understanding, and respect of religions and cultures.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms the importance of joint efforts towards a new international environment to achieve our hopes and aspirations by living in peace and security in a world in which mankind will live with respect, dignity and humanity; a world in which people will live in peace and stability; a world in which nations will achieve development and build prosperity and welfare; a world that would accept the cultures of others in peaceful co-existence, away from hatred and intolerance; and a world that believes in the unity of human destiny and works for security, prosperity, justice and peace for humanity.

Thank you.