

ROME INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

LICEO SCIENTIFICO "FARNESINA"

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ROME

1st SESSION 2007

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Statement by the Secretary-General at the 1st meeting of the General Assembly, held on 30 March 2007

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

At the outset, please allow me to express my personal satisfaction to all the authorities, partners and participants that are taking part in RIMUN.

In the name of the whole Secretariat I congratulate the new Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for taking over *the best possible job on Earth*.

Excellences,
Distinguished Members of the Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to hold the office of Secretary-General at this first meeting of the General Assembly in Rome.

By now, the Institution we are representing has reached its 62nd anniversary. But those principles of equality, freedom and justice that have solemnly inspired the creation, in 1945, of the United Nations, are still re-echoing in us today.

Those same principles that *We the Peoples of the United Nations*, as expressed in the preamble of the Charter, have declared *timeless and universal*.

It is a sentence that burdens us with great responsibility. Responsibilities that derive from the fact that we, the people of the world, can decide the fates of the Earth, therefore we have the duty of improving it, of delivering it better to future generations.

We recognise that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principals of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. [...] We have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom future belongs¹.

It is our duty to project towards the future, researching a dialectic comparison with present questions. This is the spirit that moved the creation of the United Nations and this is the spirit which should continue to be: a reference point for the totality of people around the world.

¹ United Nations Millennium Declaration, Charter I, Paragraph 2

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In fact our legitimism derive from the people, thus our actions should be directed towards them, to us, as all citizens of the world.

We do not want this Assembly to become a theatre of bloody international disputes or an official legitimising seal of the actions of the single; the comparison, keeping in mind the equality and the respect of the differences among populations, should be the common guide in each debate.

The blindness of submitters and the deafness of interlocutors make the efforts of a great Institution such as this is useless.

We should, at this point, contemplate a review of its structure:

We will spare no efforts to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home².

In the globalization era, science assumes a central and decisive role. A science that, in its research and results, doesn't divide but, *au contrair*, unifies.

We believe that international cooperation in science will have a growing role in the future. Laboratories and other scientific buildings are constructed upon the very idea of an open world for science, as a prerequisite for peaceful developments. Scientists of almost every country in the world work side by side, without distinction of political systems.

This spirit of collective greed for discovery rather than for power and struggle is best described by Dante in the words of Ulysses sailing toward the limit of the Earth, the Pillars of Hercules:

*Considerate la vostra semenza:
fatti non foste a viver come Bruti
ma per seguir virtude e canoscenza³.*

Men, consider your origin: for brutish ignorance your mettle was not made; you were made, men, to search for knowledge and excellence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

² UNMD, Ch. VIII, Par. 29

³ Alighieri, D. "Divina Commedia", Inferno XXVI, 120-123

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Reaffirming today, at a distance of 62 years, those principles is not anachronistic.

This is the objective proposed by the *Millennium Development Goals*: facing problems of a globalize society, such as that where we live, in the agreement on what declared and expressed in the Declarations emanated by this Organisation.

We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through board and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable [...]⁴.

To cite a speech by Mr. Koffi Annan:

We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals.

At the final remarks: it is necessary to do everything to ensure that the United Nations can live up to its name, and be truly united.

We solemnly reaffirm [...] that the United Nations is the indispensable common house for the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development [...]⁵.

Thank you for your attention.

I yield the floor back to the President.

⁴ UNMD, Ch. I, Par. 5

⁵ UNMD, Ch. VIII, Par. 32