



# *Rome International Model United Nations*

2nd SESSION 2008

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## **Statement by the Vice Secretary-General at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the General Assembly, held on 4 April 2008**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Honourable Chairs,  
Distinguished delegate,  
Authorities,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year we had the honour and responsibility to held the First Session of the General Assembly in Rome. It was a great event, all the participants had a great experience, It has been for us, the organizers, a great challenge. Last year we did not now what to expect and if something went wrong, well, we could always beg for pardon because of the lack of experience.

This is year is our second time. We know that no excuses are available. We count on you understanding.

Please, do not shoot the piano players.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to express my personal gratefulness to all those parties that made this event possible because of their support, both moral and financial and I warmly welcome everyone to this 2nd Session of the Rome International Model United Nations.

It is an unusual and very important event.

Please just look around.

In this hall we are more than 300 people, coming from nine different European countries. Three hundred students with a keen interest in today's World issues.

We do have two great advantages in coping with these kind of problems. We are young, enthusiast, open-minded, with different point of views that we want to share.

We do have different backgrounds, cultures, experiences that allow us to continuously feed and enrich the debate.

We do have lot of fresh ideas and we do not care of antique ideologies.

We, all together, have no excuses: we have to be able to reach positive solutions.

We are facing many challenges.

2008 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights and has been declared "International Year of Planet Earth.

It was December 10, 1948 when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 30 memorable articles that state the dignity and rights of all human beings.



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But sixty years have not been sufficient to make this World a place where all human beings can live with dignity. There are still too many countries where the basic rights of the individuals are not respected. Too many “minorities” that are considered just minor.

The 60<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 declared this year “The International Year of Planet Earth”. Global Warming, natural resources depletions, sustainability are just an example of the very many issues that we have to face in order to keep our Planet healthy in order to allow future generations to have a place where to live and prosper.

The Millennium Development Goals have been defined. It is a rather short list. Only eight goals. 36 words in all. An average of 4.5 words per objective. But the achievement of those eight objectives may totally change our future perspectives and the World scenario. We have to reach them.

These are the general themes that do define the boundaries of the problem space that we have to deal with. In this problem space this year we are called to analyse and look for solutions on a set of topics that do range from disarmament, homeland security and terrorism, debts management, financial sustainability and economic growth, health problems, international politics, ethics and governance.

So many problems that one could feel at lost. Many would have thought that there will be not enough time. Allow me to quote from the Love Song of J.F. Prufrock, by T.S. Eliot:

And indeed there will be time  
For the yellow smoke that slides along the street,  
Rubbing its back upon the window-panes;  
There will be time, there will be time  
To prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet;  
There will be time to murder and create,  
And time for all the works and days of hands  
That lift and drop a question on your plate;  
Time for you and time for me,  
And time yet for a hundred indecisions,  
And for a hundred visions and revisions,  
Before the taking of a toast and tea.

In the room the women come and go  
Talking of Michelangelo.

And indeed there will be time  
To wonder, “Do I dare?” and, “Do I dare?”



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The fundamental questions is: Do we dare? Do we have the time?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the next four days we will proof ourselves that we can answer to the call of duty that has been made. We have to position our selves in the future. The only possible strategy to reach an objective is the one that defines properly from where one has to start, that is today real world, and fixes the target point. As long as one does not loose the objective, there are infinite paths to follow. What is important is never stop the journey. Never, ever give up.

I wish us all a positive, exciting experience. These days in Rome will be, for us all, a life long memory of friendship, having proven to ourselves our ability to listen to other people beliefs and know-how, to be assertive always in a dialectic way, always looking for dialogue, knowing that is always more important to ask than to provide definitive answers.

I wish us all to be able to use our brains, our guts and our hearths to go beyond our limits. I wish us all a great time.

And please join me in wishing this World, our World, a better tomorrow that we can contribute to shape.