



Rome International Model United Nations

3rd SESSION 2009

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Statement by the President of the General Assembly at the 1st meeting of the General Assembly, held on 27th March 2009

“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.”¹

Highly honoured Secretary-General,
Honourable Chairs,
Distinguished Delegates,
Respected Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the RIMUN team of 2009, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this third session. We could not be more thrilled to embark once again on this journey with all of you.

It is been 64 years and 63 sessions since the United Nations set off on an incredible expedition: create an international web of hearts and minds aimed at cooperating and brainstorming, with the purpose to alleviate us of our social, economic, and political troubles. We, as a Model United Nations, are still young to fully grasp the importance of such a job. But something tells me that this year it's going to get interesting.

Soon after my nomination as president of the General Assembly for this year, a lot of things started happening. What seems to be years ago, is really just mere months, a handful of days have passed since we started hearing about the financial troubles of the banking world. And before any of us knew it, more and more corporations were slipping into this crisis, a world crisis we unfortunately all came to know. Now more than ever action must be taken to ensure that the economic troubles of the world do not further widen the social gap that is too often forgotten in the process of discussion. It is imperative, thus, that our duty to help nations rise from this world emergency be fulfilled in the best way possible, through cooperation and diplomacy of course, but always meeting concrete results. Otherwise, we could all end up just meeting the concrete (with our noses).

It is also recent news that 2009 has been designated, by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the United States of America President Barack Obama, the year of climate change. Finally, the recognition of nature's greatest issue is being recognized. Took us long enough. Are we aware that we are drawing very near to the world climate change conference in 2012, in Copenhagen? And are we all aware that that day marks the end of the first commitment period for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by hand of all of the countries we represent, honourable delegates?

¹ Kofi Annan



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This does not just concern our Environment Commission, which we welcome, by the way. Pollution equals bad health. Natural calamities equals displacement for millions of workers. And fixing the issue means spending big money. But I do not have to tell you that. I do not have to show you that once again, international cooperation and inter-committee collaboration is essential if we want to get someplace.

“We generate our own environment. We get exactly what we deserve. How can we resent a life we've created ourselves? Who's to blame, who's to credit but us? Who can change it, anytime we wish, but us?”²

And if all the difficulties climate change brings with itself were not enough, the social and financial situation in certain unfortunate areas of the world is not undergoing much of a change. The nearby conflicts between the Hutu and Tutsi minorities create displacement in eastern Congo. And, also in Congo, the lack of funds makes it impossible for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to create shelters for the Congolese refugees returning from Tanzania. And last but not least, the constant presence of the militia forces. Even though on November 18th, 2008 a unilateral cease-fire has been declared by the National Congress in Defence of the People (CNDP), ever since then not much has been done. The spokesman of the Secretary-General has stated that “Recent developments demonstrate without doubt the need for all parties to implement the *Actes d'engagement* and to disengage. The Secretary-General calls on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and pursue in good faith in efforts to resolve peacefully the issues that have thus far hindered progress in the Nairobi and Goma processes”. So let this be a reminder to once again work as an ensemble, for an efficient, fast solution to the matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We stand in this room united with one purpose: we have to give our contribution to the world, for the world cannot stand up for itself. Let us be reasonable. Let us pursue our objectives and then meet them. Let us do all of this in an effort to work together once again, as ever, through diplomacy and education, while also affirming our points of view and fighting for our ideals. And if at some point we are let down by the outcome, let us remind ourselves that success is a journey and not a destination.

I would like to wish all of you a positive experience, full of hard work and good times, solid confrontation and substantial outcomes. Let us put our hearts, bodies, and minds into this exciting experience so that, simply put, something good will come of it. On behalf of our team, I once again welcome you all to Rome, and sincerely hope you can make the best of your time here. In more ways than one.

Thank you.

² Richard Bach, author of “Jonathan Livingston Seagull”, 1936