



**The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
To the United Nations – New York**

Statement of acceptance by

His Excellency Dr. Ali A. Treky

Secretary for African Union Affairs of Libya

**Following His Election President of the Sixty Fourth Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 10 June 2009

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President;
Mr. Secretary General;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to express my thanks and appreciation for the confidence you placed in my country and in my person by electing me by acclamation President of the sixty fourth session of the General Assembly. My special thanks are due to the African Group which supported my nomination and provided me with encouragement. It would indeed be an honor for me to represent it by assuming this important position. This choice is a tribute to my country, its people and its leader. It is also an expression of appreciation for Libya's commitment to the principles and purposes of the charter of the United Nations, and its effective contribution to the realization of international peace and security, especially in Africa. However, it places, at the same time, a moral commitment on our shoulders to further advance the achievement of the United Nations purposes. On my part, I will exert every possible effort to achieve those goals, in consultation and cooperation with all member states.

I am really happy to find myself, once again, surrounded by a large number of friends, and would indeed be honored to work with them for a whole year.

I would like to thank my dear friend, President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, for the frank and sincere method in which he shared with me his experience. Undoubtedly his cooperation and advice for me during the transitional period will be most important in conducting the work of the sixty fourth session. I seize this opportunity to commend the efforts which he made in leading the General Assembly to respond effectively to a large number of pressing issues.

I wish also to express my happiness with the welcome and encouragement bestowed upon me by my dear friend, the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki - moon, whom I have had the pleasure to know and appreciate his admirable traits of character for many years. I admire his leadership of the United Nations, his perseverance, and quick response to the exigencies of urgent matters. I wish to reassure him that I will cooperate with him and benefit from his experience in seeking the best ways to address the issues of priority facing the UN.

The world has gone through many cruel and better stages, marked by a phase of colonialism and slavery, which embodies oppression in its cruelest forms. The peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America were the victims. Successive wars were fought, chief among which were the first and second world wars. The peoples of small countries paid the highest price for those wars, in terms of destruction, material losses, and hundreds of thousands of lost human lives.

At the end of World War Two, the peoples of the world saw in the establishment of the UN, an end to their sufferings, and the beginning of a new era of security, peace, justice, equality and development. The era of decolonization and independence for small peoples was heralded, with the UN playing a major role in its achievement. The International Declaration of Human Rights was issued to usher a new era which focuses on the respect of human beings, their dignity and right to life. Despite the defects and shortcomings of the UN, it deserves to be commended for its achievements, especially in the humanitarian fields.

When the UN was established, the countries which emerged victorious from the war had the lion's share in it. The Charter was drafted in a manner that gave the victorious countries rights not accorded to other states. This represented a major defect, especially with respect to the Security Council. The world, however, has evolved considerably since then; the criteria have changed, with a multipolar structure emerging. It is no longer possible for the United Nations, with a membership of 192 countries, to remain the same organization which had only 50 members. The need for reforming the United Nations system has emerged, especially vis a vis the role of the General Assembly and the need to grant it full authorities to shoulder its responsibilities in this human march.

With the emergence of the UN, the peoples of the world believed that they will enjoy peace and prosperity, but wars increased, even though mostly confined to regional and local levels. The competition among the major powers played a role in their inflammation. Thousands, if not millions, of victims fell all over the world. Military expenditure increased, and military budgets were raised to reach trillions. The small countries felt obliged to augment their military capabilities at the expense of their development and the welfare of their peoples. Weapons of mass destruction were proliferated and the whole world felt endangered. Despite the calls by the major powers, which possess nuclear weapons, for disarmament, they did not set a good

example for other countries by taking the initiative to dismantle their own weapons of mass destruction. Hence, the call to discard weapons of mass destruction met hardly any response.

The exorbitant amounts spent on arms could have been benefited from in the reduction of poverty, fighting diseases and assisting the poor peoples in the field of development.

Millions of people suffer from hunger; hundreds of millions are deprived from the right to education, and hundreds of millions suffer from diseases, with no access to medicines. The poverty rates have increased, with repercussions for small peoples who have suffered more instability as they witnessed military coups and rebellion movements, hampering their development and increasing their torment. The world can enjoy no peace, being divided to poor and rich, with a widening gap between the two. Furthermore, peace cannot prevail in the world while there are peoples who live under foreign occupation and suffer from racism. Only within a framework of justice and respect for human rights, regardless of one's religion, race, color, or nationality, could peace prevail.

The time has come for us to realize that wars are all wrong doings and sins. We should work together to avert wars, through the administration of justice, in order to safeguard human lives and preserve human dignity. The only war worthy of being relentlessly fought, with the participation of all, is the one against fatal diseases, poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

Undoubtedly many challenges lie ahead, which we, united, must face, making a concerted effort, through the United Nations. UN reform, in all its various aspects, especially reforming the Security Council and revitalization of the General Assembly, must continue to be one of our priorities. We should make every effort to achieve it as soon as possible. Indeed the realization of peace and security, through the administration of justice and putting an end to wars, falls within the core of the purposes of the United Nations. It is a responsibility to be shouldered by all member states.

We have no choice also but to continue to address the issue of climate change firmly and effectively, through cooperation among member states, in order to make the General Assembly an effective instrument for advancing the current negotiations on climate change towards success and establishing

a new framework for our future work, based on the achievements made to date and the envisaged targets.

The world financial and economic crisis remains one of the major concerns which require more efforts to search for additional effective methods to cope with the crisis, mitigate its impact, and achieve sustainable economic growth and development, taking into account the negative effects of the crisis on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, especially in Africa.

It is imperative upon us to stand firmly for the realization of human rights. Such an undertaking cannot be achieved by rhetorical statements only, but through the provision of the basic necessities for a dignified life, such as food, medicine, clean drinking water, educational and health services, and the means to fight dangerous diseases such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. This cannot be brought about except through solidarity and joint coordination in order create a better world in which all enjoy peace and security, as well as a decent living standard, and in which basic rights and freedoms for all are respected.

As you have chosen me to preside over the next session of the General Assembly, I would like to assert that I will be at the disposal of all of you for the sake of the joint effort to enhance the United Nations and its bodies. I will depend on the assistance of every member of the United Nations, and will not align with any party or group. My only alignment will be for justice, security, peace, and the common interests of the entire international community. I will cooperate with the Secretary General and the Secretariat for the common good.

Thank you, Mr. President