

Sultanate of Oman

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



سلطنة عُمان

STATEMENT

OF

THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

DELIVERED BY

H.E. MR. YOUSEF BIN ALAWI BIN ABDULLAH

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 64TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2009

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

Your Excellency Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Treiki,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and your brotherly country, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on your election as President of the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We are confident that your experience and knowledge of the role of the United Nations in international relations would play a great role in the success of the work of this session.

I should also take this opportunity to express our thanks to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann of Nicaragua for his good efforts in running the work of the previous session.

I would also like to express our appreciation to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General for his tireless efforts to develop the working mechanisms at the United Nations Organizations in order to make it more effective. We wish him all success.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that the United Nations has made great achievements over more than 60 years of joint international action, which have positively contributed to securing international peace and security. It has provided expert assistance to developing countries in their socio-economic projects. It has also helped in reaching consensus on several political issues and conflicts which has contributed to the development of international peacekeeping force mechanisms. However, the Palestinian issue remains unsolved despite the efforts of Arab countries and the international community.

We believe that the Arab peace initiative and the international peace efforts are the most appropriate way to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of ending occupation, the return of Arab lands occupied since 1967, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital and the removal of all the illegal and illegitimate Israeli settlements. This will help achieve peaceful coexistence and positive cooperation between Arab States and Israel, and contribute to a great extent towards opening new horizons of cooperation and development in the region and the whole world. Peace, based on these principles,



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will be one of the most important gains of the people of the regions which would lead towards ending regional crises and eradicating the root causes of terrorism.

Hence, we call upon Israel to seize the historical opportunity to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that would achieve security and peaceful coexistence between the states and peoples of the region. Squandering this opportunity by Israel will constitute a grave loss for the Israeli people.

Mr. President,

We welcome the recent positive developments in Iraq. We hope that such developments would continue in order to achieve security and stability, contribute to the success of comprehensive national reconciliation efforts, help establish positive cooperative relations with neighboring countries and restore to Iraq its role as an effective regional player at all levels.

We look forward to seeing positive results from the Darfur peace talks which will be held in Doha, Qatar between the Sudanese Government and the Darfur opposition. We hope that the concerned parties can reach a framework for a political agreement that would help achieve security, stability and development in Darfur.

We also welcome the policies of H.E. Sheikh Sharif Ahmed Sheikh Mohammed, the President of the sisterly country of Somalia, and his efforts to achieve peace in his country. We call upon all parties in Somalia to renounce violence and adhere to dialogue.

We support international efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery against commercial ships off the coasts of the Horn of Africa region.

We welcome the continued cooperation between the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran, the international community and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In this respect, we see some positive signs leading towards a diplomatic solution.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that the efforts exerted by the rich industrialized nations to restore stability and balance to international capital markets have begun to bear fruits, which



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would help lead to a recovery for the world economy. We believe that more efforts are needed to arrive at a consensus on the Doha Round of Trade talks, taking into account the interests of all states including those of developing countries.

In light of the sufferings of many countries of the world due to serious shortage of food security resources, water and medicine, we call upon the rich industrialized countries to increase spending on agriculture research, food security and the provision of water and medicine, because of their direct positive impact on the life of mankind.

Mr. President,

From the position of the Sultanate of Oman, which condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and commitment to the objectives and Charter of the United Nations, we would like to emphasize the continuous support of the Sultanate of Oman for all international efforts to eliminate this phenomenon and to combat it by taking related appropriate measures based on international conventions and according to what is stated in the Arab Conventions of 1998 and the Treaty of Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism of 1999.

In this regard, we would like to point out that in the context of the keen desire of the Sultanate of Oman with the cooperation of the United Nations and the international community in combating terrorism and eliminating it, the Sultanate of Oman has joined 10 conventions out of 13 in the field of counter-terrorism. Royal Decree no. 8/2007 was issued to ratify the Omani Law to combat terrorism.

Mr. President,

While we commend the efforts undertaken by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Specialized Agencies and countries to address the so-called epidemic of swine flu (H1N1), we hope that the international community would allocate more resources to invest in research and pharmaceutical industries. Pharmaceutical companies should not have a monopoly over any medication derived from this research and should be made accessible to all and especially the poor and developing countries.



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Mr. President,

We regret that the western media, from time to time, address issues that are harmful to religions and religious symbols that affect people's beliefs, including Islam and Muslims. We consider this as contrary to efforts to spread the culture of peace, brotherhood and understanding between different religions and civilizations. In line with the wise directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who encourages openness and dialogue between different cultures, the Sultanate of Oman participated in the conferences related to this matter, including the two conferences of the Alliance of Civilization convened in Madrid in early 2008 and Istanbul in April 2009. In addition, we participated in the meeting of the United Nations dedicated to dialogue between religions and cultures, held here at the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, King of Saudi Arabia, in November 2008.

Mr. President,

On the basis of our belief in the importance of environmental issues and climate affairs, we, in the Sultanate of Oman and with the interest of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and in coordination with the United Nations and the international community, are making great efforts to preserve our environment and our territorial waters from pollution and are working to protect our national resources and achieve the declared goals of sustainable development. In this regard, my country has enacted legislation in order to put environmental considerations in all lines of the development strategies.

We hope that the UN Climate Conference to be held in Copenhagen later this year will adopt a long term practical plan to protect the environment and reduce CO2 emissions.

In closing, I would like to express our deep thanks and appreciation for Your Excellency's efforts in steering the work of this session. We call upon countries, through Your Excellency, to take the necessary measures and steps to arrive at a consensus on all issues before us.

Thank you.