





work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee that greatly contributed to the implementation of the historic Security Council resolution 1373. On the part of the General Assembly, we still have an important task to resolve. We lack the General Convention, including the definition of international terrorism, and I strongly urge Member States to proceed with their work in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Sixth Committee on this issue. I am ready to take an active part in all UN efforts to combat international terrorism.

It is also crucial to continue our work in the area of conflict prevention. Recent experience suggests that certain conflicts can be prevented through preventive diplomacy, preventive deployment and preventive disarmament. The far-reaching recommendations of the Secretary-

Nations preventive capacity and move from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. Successful preventive strategies should include accountability and good governance, respect for human rights, promotion of social and economic development, as well as programs aimed at disarmament, education, and gender equality.

The necessity for an effective strategy for conflict prevention is underlined by the number of existing conflicts troubling today's world. One of the most protracted is the Middle East conflict. The international efforts to bring peace to the area, on both a bilateral and an international basis, intensified in the past decade. The United Nations has been actively involved in numerous efforts to resolve the conflict since its establishment, most recently as one of the players in the Quartet initiative. There is a growing hope that the Quartet has a necessary potential to cool down the vicious spiral of violence and to bring new prospects of peaceful settlement to the parties in the conflict. During our deliberations at the General Assembly, I would like to contribute, to the extent possible, to the existing efforts to political resolution of this conflict.

Other issues of great importance I will follow closely are poverty eradication, the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic, and sustainable development in the accelerating process of globalization. The Millennium Summit was a remarkable milestone in our endeavour to explore ways to achieve a more equal distribution of the benefits of globalization. We believe that the 57th session of the General Assembly is the session in which the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development should be duly addressed.

The Millennium Declaration laid out the set of development goals that have been widely accepted as targets for development cooperation. In Monterrey, substantial progress was achieved in the area of financing for development, bringing a number of recommendations to national governments, local authorities and international institutions. The Monterrey Consensus itself gave us guidance on how to change our work in the United Nations in order to achieve better coherence and efficiency. We will also have to improve cooperation between the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Main Committees.

The 57th session of the General Assembly will face the very important and challenging task of preparing for the High-level Dialogue in 2003 as a follow up to the Monterrey Consensus.





I want to further improve the working methods of the General Assembly by streamlining its agenda. In this regard, we have already achieved some modest progress. For the first time ever, in a close and effective cooperation with the Secretariat, a draft Programme of Work for the entire main part of the 57th session was provided to the Member States several weeks before the beginning of this Session. In this Programme, items of the agenda have been clustered, allowing for joint or consequent debate on inter-linked issues. The support of Member States for this proposal could help eliminate repetitive speeches and create better pre-conditions for more complex consideration of inter-related and crosscutting issues.

In this connection, I would like to inform you about my strong intention to fully utilize the time allocated for our meetings, including the punctual start of our work. In chairing the meetings, I am determined to adhere to the agreed time limits of speeches. Also in this respect, I hope to gain your support and cooperation.

I look forward to the outcome of the on-going work of the Secretariat on enhancement of its effectiveness as part of the implementation of the Road Map. I am convinced that this initiative combined with the efforts on revitalization of the General Assembly could result in more profound changes that would make the United Nations truly efficient.

As the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group on Security Council Reform, I will do my utmost to facilitate discussion to bring Member States closer to an agreement. I would like to reiterate that a more representa