

14 February 2003

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Jan Kavan,  
President of the 57th Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Intersessional Meeting of Prime Ministers of Caricom on  
“United Nations General Assembly Presidency  
in the Light of the Caribbean Candidacy”**

I would like to start with the recollection of priorities of this presidency:

1. Enhancement of peace and security

- strengthening of the international coalition against international terrorism,
- contributing to the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

2. Promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development in the accelerating process of globalization

- effective and sustained follow-up to the Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and preparation for the implementation of a number of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration
- support to a broader access to information and communication technologies, namely for education, good governance and health care.

3. Strengthening the role of the United Nations with focus on:

- better policy coherence through enhancing partnerships between the UN, Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and other development partners,
- enhanced cooperation between the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC, as well as the Secretary-General.

4. Reform of the United Nations

- enhancement of the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations on the basis of the Road map towards the implementation of Millennium Declaration,
- revitalization of the General Assembly,
- facilitation of discussion on the Security Council reform.

In the autumn part of the 57th UNGA session, the activities focussed on arranging debates on the absolute majority of items on the agenda, while in the remaining part of the year they will concentrate above all on the priorities of the Czech presidency as I outlined earlier.

Assessment of the 1st Part of the General Assembly Session

Let me now turn to the assessment of the main session of the General Assembly which ended last December. As to organisational issues, one should note:

- a shorter general debate;
- that time efficiency of meetings has improved due to timely start of meetings and well organised conduct of business;
- that fewer meetings were held (only 78 plenary sessions compared to 92 in 2001) due to for example, holding joint discussions on substance related topics (one for the Report of the SG on the work of the Organisation and follow-up activities to the Millennium Summit and one for Security Council report and SC reform) and thus contributing to a greater effectiveness of the meetings.

Some of the issues may seem to have marginal relevance and low political importance, but in our view they are an important element of improving functionality and cost efficiency of the UN.

Last year the President of the GA was for the first time elected in advance, (two months before taking on the office, this year it should be full three months in advance). I, therefore, had more time to prepare for the office, get acquainted with the work of my predecessor and already consult for example the Secretariat on a number of issues. As a result of these extensive consultations, it became possible, for the first time in its history, for the General Assembly to approve its complex programme of its main work till the end of the year already in early September.

One of the major tasks of the important autumn part of the General Assembly session was the consideration of the report of the UN General-Secretary "The strengthening of the UN: agenda for further change". The text of the resolution setting the further course for the reform processes and strengthening of the organization was worked out under our guidance. The unanimous approval of the resolution was perceived as an unquestionable success, though some elements of the reform proposal of the SG will have to be discussed further.

I also presented a draft resolution on the report of the UN Secretary-General "The Implementation of the Millennium Declaration". This resolution was also adopted by a consensus and it proposes the holding of a summit to deal in whole complexity with the state of implementation of the objectives of the Declaration at the 60th UNGA session in 2005.

The 57th UNGA dealt in detail with problems of the African continent. The high-level plenary session on the New partnership for Africa's development focussed on discussing the possibilities of international support for this initiative, in particular on the part of the UN system.

The General Assembly President also opened a discussion on revitalizing the work of the General Assembly. The discussion focussed on the rationalization of the UN, on greater effectiveness of its work and on revitalizing plenary debates. This discussion will continue for the rest of our mandate and I assume that many of its aspects will be reflected on the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/900).



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I look forward to hear your comments and suggestions, which will help me to ascertain better the opinion of member countries and of this region in particular. I am deeply convinced that everybody's ideas can be interesting and inspirign(g)12(ion iticul(nd ins)-2(pirig)11 0 ia)4(n(g)12(ion iticulia)