







partnership between Arab states, the European Union, the United States of America and the world at large that enhances our development, stability and fight against terrorism.

The commitment of my government to build a better future for the people of Yemen and the people of our region prompted us to institute numerous economic and political reforms and to broaden popular involvement in governance and strengthening of our partnership with other countries and entities.

This was highlighted in the Sana'a Declaration adopted earlier this year by the Forum on Democracy, Human Rights and the International Criminal Court. A number of other countries, represented by their governments, parliaments and civil society, regional and international organizations took part in that gathering. The Forum was organized in response to reform initiatives that came from the governments and peoples of the region. It stressed that good democratic governance and respect for human rights require full mobilization of civil society energies and potential. They also need interaction among all stakeholders with a sense of responsibility and partnership with governments and support from outside the region in order to use overall development as a vehicle towards stability, progress

against any proposed resolution that would bind Israel to implement U.N. resolutions. This is the reason that encouraged Israel to persist in the construction of the racial separation wall that aggravates the suffering of the Palestinian people and takes away sizable tracts of whatever remained from their land in defiance of global consensus and of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). We wish to emphasize here that the wall can not guarantee Israel its security as recent events have demonstrated. Israel's genuine security can be attained if it accepted the Road Map and committed itself to implement United Nations relevant resolutions. We demand the Security Council to ensure the physical safety of the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, and to provide protection for the Palestinian people against Israeli state-sponsored terrorism, in addition to showing respect for the wishes and the will of the Palestinian people.

Also, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories is an integral part of any Middle East peace initiative. I wish to recall in this regard that the Arab peace initiative represents an Arab consensus for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Furthermore, my Government considers the threats fired from time to time by the Israeli military machine against sister Syria and against Iran inadmissible and represents irresponsible provocation that escalates the already tense situation in the region. The timing of these threats further fuels violence and frustrates peace endeavours aiming at finding a just and negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also represent an attempt by the Israeli government to veer away from its failure to ensure security for its citizens. Time has come for Israel to recognize that its stability and acceptance by countries of the region will remain unfulfilled unless it implements the Road Map and relevant U.N. resolutions, and withdraws from the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan and the Shab'a farms.

In the same context, I wish to affirm my country's position of support to the United Nations efforts regarding arrangements for the convening of a disarmament conference which aims, inter alia, at the establishment of the Middle East region as a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. To this end, Israel must accede to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current violence in Iraq, and the violation of human rights and bloodshed of our Iraqi brothers is an inevitable outcome of an invasion. Thus, it is incumbent upon the United Nations to fulfill its role as set forth in relevant resolutions regarding the need to provide support to Iraq with a view to restore peace and stability throughout the country. The interim Iraqi government should be enabled to exercise full sovereignty in order to lead Iraq towards holding democratic elections and forming and installing a constitutional government that represents the will of the Iraqi people and restores law and order and put an end to



government that leads Somalia towards drafting a new constitution and setting up a democratic system of government in Somalia. Yemen, of course, will align itself with the good offices made by the governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya and supported by the European Union and the United States to promote reconciliation.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Yemen has been closely following the humanitarian situation in the Darfour province of Sister Sudan. I wish to underline here the decisions adopted by the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers which met at the headquarters of the Arab League early last August. That meeting was also attended by the Chief Commissioner of the African Union and the Foreign Minister of Nigeria as representative of President Obasanjo of Nigeria, the current Chairman of the African Union. We wish also to reaffirm the decisions adopted in this regard by the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers in its regular session on 14 and 15 September. Those decisions reflected the joint Arab-African position regarding the situation in Darfour. They affirmed the need to address the matter within the African Union with Arab support. The decisions also rejected any attempt to create a rift in Arab-African relations. The decisions also stressed the fact that there was no hard evidence of massacres. Furthermore, the meeting underlined the responsibility of the Government of Sudan to maintain security and stability, to provide protection for its citizens, and to disarm all militias in the region. Success of the Sudanese government in meeting these goals will depend on the extent of international support lent to the government and on the extent of humanitarian relief assistance given. All external parties must also refrain from interference in the domestic affairs of the Sudan. Only the Government of Sudan will assume its responsibility to deploy its forces to ensure security, provide protection for of its citizens and to confront all armed groups that were behind the blown out crisis. In the meantime, all logistical support needed by the Government of Sudan should be provided by the African Union and Arab States to achieve those objectives.

On the other hand, the forthcoming response by the Sudan to Security Council resolutions and the steps it started to implement clearly demonstrate its genuine commitment to the undertakings it entered into. Therefore, we call on the United Nations, especially the Security Council, to address the question on the basis of an accurate assessment of the situation in Darfour which, in our view, has started to improve. Favouring one side at the expense of another should be avoided. Also, focus should shift to address the humanitarian situation without any political motives or interests. All parties to the Darfour dispute should be urged to participate constructively and without pre-conditions in peace talks with the Government of Sudan in order to reach a just solution for this crisis. Any attempt at blackmail or exploitation of the events to the advantage of the rebel groups must be rejected.

Mr. President,

On this occasion, the Government of the Republic of Yemen wishes to stress that the policy of imposing or threatening to impose unilateral siege and economic sanctions, as practiced against some member states, is an explicit violation of the principles of international law, let alone the fact that the practice proved to be a failure on the ground in more than one place. Quite the opposite, sanctions and siege aggravate the suffering of innocent civilians and lead to an escalation of hostilities. While my country supports the call by the United Nations to end unilateral measures, it affirms the need to promote the culture of dialogue and understanding even in dealing with issues that are usually controversial. This indeed should be the rational and civilized approach that all of us should pursue in resolving our disputes and mending our relations.

Finally, my delegation wishes the General Assembly success in fulfilling its mandate in this session in order to reinforce our common endeavours to promote peace, security and welfare for all of us. It is our hope that the ongoing reform of the United Nations will lead to achieving the long-awaited objectives, including the equitable representation in the Security Council. This will enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the Organization and will make it even more responsive to the constantly changing landscape of international relations. I wish to seize this opportunity to reaffirm that the Republic of Yemen will support any effort aiming at strengthening the role of the United Nations and enhancing its credibility, safeguarding the sovereignty and will of its member states and pooling our energies to create a better future for the humankind.

Thank you.