



HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK
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STATEMENT

by

Terry DAVIS,

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

MAKING MULTILATERALISM WORK

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

If there were no United Nations and the world were left to its own devices, would we be any safer? Would we be any healthier? Would the world be a better, fairer place?

At the Council of Europe, we believe that the answer is NO!

In fact, in today's interdependent world, armed conflicts, global pandemics and natural disasters, compounded by so many other threats and challenges such as inte

First, the Council of Europe attaches great importance to the International Criminal Court. It is our firm position that the Court must have global jurisdiction, and that no country should be exempt from it. Since the creation of the Court, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has constantly encouraged our member States and observer States to ratify the Statute of the Court. I am glad to report that the vast majority of them have already done so.

Second, another area in which the Council of Europe is taking the lead is the abolition of the death penalty. We are proud that none of our 46 member States now use capital punishment.

Third, we welcome the decision to establish a Human Rights Council. We hope that it will retain the positive features of the current system including the country and thematic special procedures, which have been instrumental in advancing the UN's human rights agenda. We are pleased to see

That is why relations with the UN will remain one of my priorities as they have been ever since taking office a year ago. During these twelve months the Council of Europe has been much more present both in Geneva and New York, and I was pleased to initiate the first desk to desk meetings between our two organisations to give added political content to our relationship.

Mr President, the Council of Europe and the United Nations are partners. We are working together to make a be