



President Leonid Kuchma

Statement at the Special Commemorative Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, 22 October 1995

Speaking from the highest rostrum of the planet I feel pride, gratitude and hope. I am proud of the wisdom and farsightedness of the founders of the United Nations who have laid the foundation of the new world order.

Challenging the course of history itself, they have set out to oppose the forces of hostility and intolerance through means of peace and mutual assistance. And for the first time, they have succeeded. The peoples of the planet have received a unique instrument for consolidating mankind into a single universal organism in their efforts to survive and build a better world.

I am especially proud of this, since representatives of my people were also among the founders of the United Nations.

In its turn, Ukraine was able to use the United Nations as a global platform from which to proclaim the country's existence. UN support has helped us to achieve the realization of the age-old aspirations for a state of our own.

I certainly set great hopes on the future of the United Nations, for it brings us closer to the moment when we are able to say: "The United Nations mean the United World".

Having ended the epoch of the great ideological confrontation, mankind has managed to substantially decrease the threat of self-destruction in nuclear flames, and to establish sufficiently reliable mechanisms for international security.

I am pleased to point out that Ukraine made a special contribution to the cause of disarmament. As the third largest nuclear state, we were first in the world to voluntarily renounce our nuclear status and our nuclear weapons. However, this has entailed our enduring enormous economic and ecological losses.

I am convinced that the establishment of a special status for countries that renounce their nuclear weapons -- through international security guarantees, consolidated financial and technical assistance, and moral stimuli -- would provide a colossal impetus for expediting the process of nuclear disarmament.

This could be implemented through a new UN Programme "The 21st Century World-Without Nuclear Weapons".

UN peace-keeping activities require constant improvement and increased efficiency. First of all, they require reorientation to a conflict-prevention diplomacy. This can be promoted by establishing UN trusteeship over the processes of formation of new states, making the use of force inadmissible and ensuring adherence to the established standards of international law.

At the same time, the international community should adapt to today's realities, its attitude to separatism, which is frequently the

initial cause of local conflicts and capable of becoming the severest challenge to the world in the 21st century.

The disappearance of a world divided into antagonistic systems is connected with the profound internal transformation in post-socialist countries. I am convinced of the need to establish the broadest favourable regime to encourage these countries' integration into the international community. The creation of a UN Council for Economic Security - a new body working together with the Security Council and exerting similar authority and influence - would promote the elaboration of specific proposals in respect of international support for the development of these countries. Such a body could identify strategic perspectives for the development of mankind and preventive actions for decades ahead.

The United Nations was established by people who realized that nations, peoples and states are interdependent and interwoven components of a single entity called Humanity. The presence of this unprecedented number of world leaders here today is convincing evidence of their support for the United Nations at the crucial stage of its development.

Hence, it's most important for the UN today to redefine itself under these new conditions and to follow the course charted out by the circumstances in which we find ourselves today.

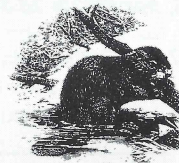
Understanding this will provide a source of strength, longevity and moral health.

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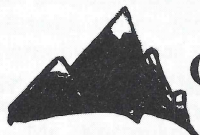


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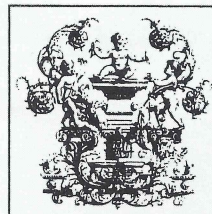


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