



**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA SUISSE  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

seul le texte prononcé fait foi

60<sup>ème</sup> session de l'Assemblée générale

Réunion plénière de haut niveau  
de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies  
(Sommet M+5)

14 - 16 septembre 2005

**Discours  
de  
M. Samuel SCHMID  
Président de la Confédération suisse**

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60th session of the General Assembly

High-level Plenary Meeting  
of the United Nations General Assembly  
(M+5 Summit)

14 - 16 September 2005

**Statement by  
Samuel SCHMID  
President of the Swiss Confederation**

New York, 15 September 2005

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, the Heads of State and of Government,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sixty years of the United Nations' existence have proved that it is truly a universal organisation. There is no substitute for its framework for cooperation between the nations. It is the driving force behind efforts for development; it is the promoter of peace and collective security.

And yet, conflicts erupt and persist; the battle against famine and poverty continues; inequality and oppression remain a reality. This is why the United Nations is indispensable and must be equipped to rise to the challenges of our time

In the Declaration we propose adopting, we recognize that human rights and democracy, peace and security, as well as development, are interdependent and that they constitute the very foundation of our security and well-being. They are the three pillars of the United Nations' action.

Mr. President,

My country expresses its satisfaction with regard to the creation of the Human Rights Council. By establishing this Council, we should succeed in adapting the UN's architecture in order to make human rights as much a priority as development, peace, and security. In Switzerland's view, this new body will have to be both more legitimate and more efficient, hold a higher place in the United Nations' hierarchy than the current Human Rights Commission, and should hold its sessions in Geneva. Our Assembly has set a lofty goal in this context which it considers a priority, and

Switzerland is firmly determined to pursue the efforts it has undertaken over the last few months in order to achieve it.

Mr. President,

In order to fulfil the task of maintaining peace and security, it is essential that we reaffirm our commitment to peacefully settle disputes, and that the use of force should remain the exception; and in the case of exception, then in conformity with the untouchable principles of international law.

There is also the need for us to better assume, individually as collectively, our responsibility to protect, and to make every effort to define, together, the criteria for its implementation.

We furthermore welcome the creation of the Peace-building Commission, which should be a new instrument to promote collective security, ensuring the connection between the security of citizens, the re-establishment of the rule of law, humanitarian work, and development. It is just as important that its composition be representative of UN members' actual contributions in those contexts.

We also feel that it is necessary that the Security Council become more representative and that its working methods be reformed with a view to increased transparency, in order for a strengthened interaction to flourish with non-members of the Council.

Switzerland equally wishes to reaffirm here its support for peace-keeping operations as well as its commitment in the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. This commitment was

solidified by the signing of the International Convention for the suppression of nuclear terrorism, to which I had the honour of proceeding yesterday.

To ensure security is also to respect the law. As such, it is of the utmost importance to recall that the crucial fight against terrorism can not be pursued at the expense of international law and respect for human rights.

Mr. President,

Development is an essential component of security. This is why we unambiguously reaffirm here the commitments that we made at the Millennium Summit, and then reiterated at Monterrey and Johannesburg. Increased and coordinated efforts of all development partners — industrialized countries just as developing countries, public sector and private, governments and civil society — are needed if we are to attain these objectives within the set deadline.

For Switzerland, there is but one notion of development: that of sustainable development, as much in the economic and social areas as in the environmental.

Our natural resources are running out, and if we do not rapidly devote far greater attention to the preservation of our natural resources, particularly in the contexts of climate and biodiversity, we will not achieve our development goals.

For nearly thirty years, Switzerland has been giving priority to the poorest countries for its assistance. Today, we devote nearly half of that aid to Africa, and we will resolutely stay the course in the future.

The aid we provide to developing countries is of good quality, implemented in partnership with its beneficiaries. However, the coordination of the international aid system's actors must be further improved. In this context, Switzerland fully conforms to the Paris Agenda on aid effectiveness, and is convinced that the harmonisation of aid remains crucial to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the Monterrey Conference, Swiss official aid has grown continuously and today has reached the level to which we had committed ourselves at the conference. Switzerland now ranks among the top ten donors of the countries of the OECD, designating 041% of its gross national income to official development aid. Development aid will be one of the few items of our national budget which will grow over the coming years by a further global 8% for the period 2005-2008. Switzerland will consider to increase its quota for development aid beyond 2008 in order to further enhance its part of the international burden sharing

In closing, I wish to underline that the question of migration must be taken more seriously into consideration. In this regard, Switzerland expresses its commitment in the context of the Global Commission, in view of the 2006 high-level dialogue on migration and development.

Mr. President,

In this International Year of Sport and Physical Education, please allow me to conclude with this sporting maxim, with the wish that it might apply to the United Nations: faster, higher, stronger... in other words, more effectiveness, more transparency, more solidarity.

Thank you, Mr. President.