



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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61st SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 21 SEPTEMBER 2006

Madam President, distinguished delegates,

1. Five years after the destruction of the Twin Towers and just a few days after the commemoration of this terrible tragedy, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the people of this great city, which serves as mankind's meeting point.

I spoke of freedom of expression and freedom of religion. Today I should like to revisit this theme. But: in addition I will discuss the relationship between fighting

8. Anti-terrorism measures can only be effective if adopted within the context of the human rights commitments we have undertaken *Ultimately*, our defence should not come at the expense of the very values upon which our societies are founded. Our

16 I commend the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts to promote the resolution's

effective implementation.

17. The new UNIFIL is an important symbol of hope. Peacekeepers of different religious and cultural backgrounds are working together under the skyblue banner of the United Nations. As they have been doing in the Great Lakes region in Africa and will hopefully soon be doing in Darfur, Sudan. I am proud of the fact that several member states of the European Union, together with Turkey, China and Indonesia, provide the backbone of UNIFIL. The Netherlands is actively considering to contribute to its

pragmatic approach would be to opt for a temporary solution that could be modified after, say, ten years. The world is dynamic and the Security Council's composition should reflect this. The geopolitical realities of today might not be the geopolitical realities of tomorrow.

Madam President,

26. We should focus on the longer-term gains we all benefit from, rather than on short-term progress at the expense of others. Let us work to make the United Nations operate in a less antagonistic way. We have successfully tried that in the Group of