

SWEDEN

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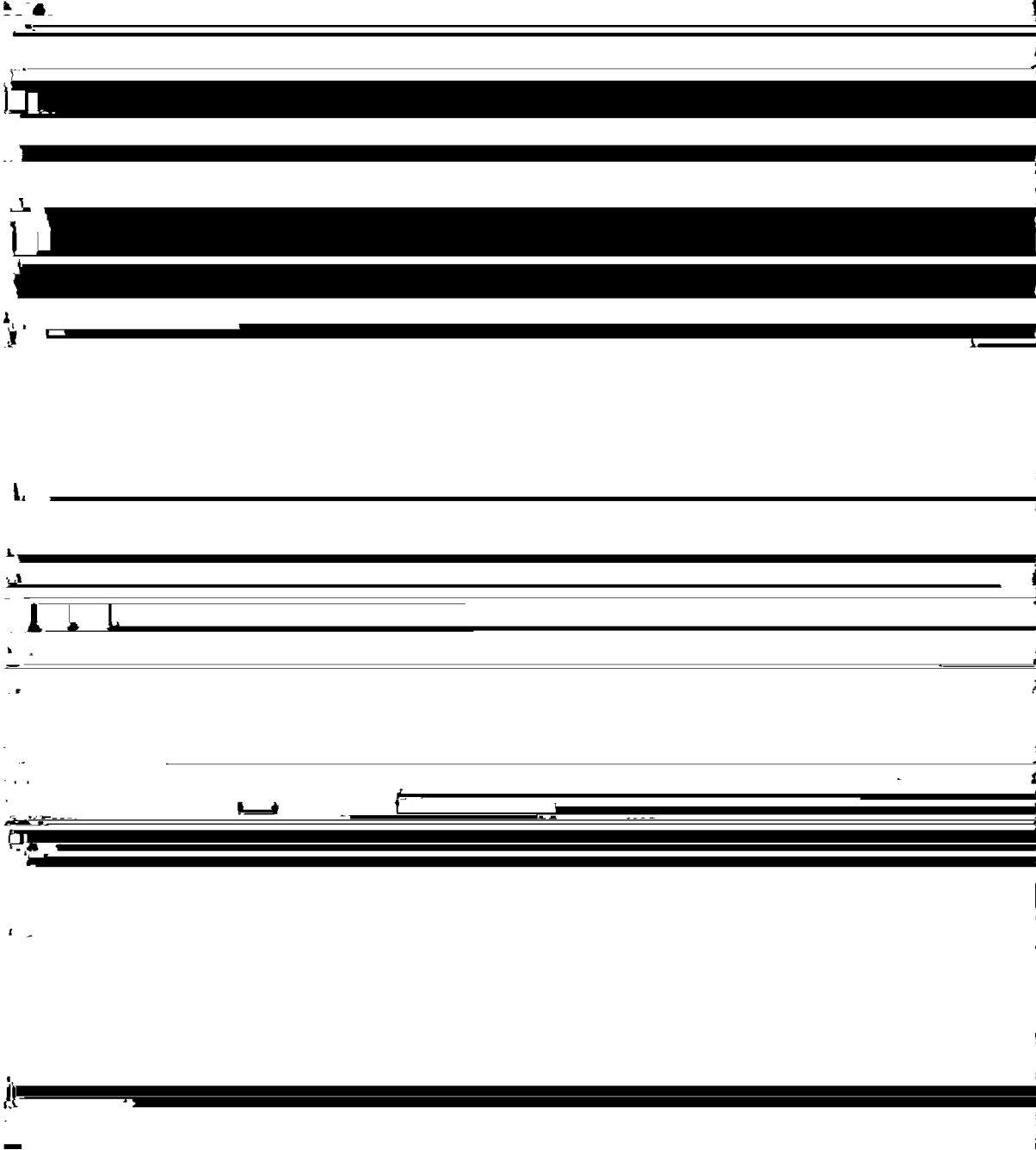
Madame President,

The latest cycle of violence in the Middle East and the recent escalation in Darfur have once again highlighted the need for a strong multilateral response to global challenges.

Last year's World Summit set out an ambitious agenda on how to strengthen the United Nations.

The reform efforts must continue.

The 100th anniversary of the League of Nations in New York during the 60th Session should be translated



for Lebanon's early recovery. It is vital that we sustain our commitment to Lebanon's reconstruction and to the strengthening of its sovereignty.

Full implementation by all parties of resolutions 1559 and 1701 is needed. Sweden is preparing a military contribution to UNIFIL.

Madame President,

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies at the core of the tensions in the Middle East.

The vision of an independent, and democratic Palestine, living side by side with a secure Israel, based on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 must be revived and concretized.

Israel's right to exist should be unequivocally recognized by all. We condemn rocket attacks against Israeli territory. Terrorist attacks can never be justified and must end.

Sweden remains concerned at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank. Humanitarian access must be guaranteed, and humanitarian law should be observed throughout the occupied Palestinian territories.

The expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territories must

Madame President,

There are over 1.1 billion people living in abject poverty in our world today. Well over 100 million children do not attend school.

It is true that there has been progress. The number of extremely poor has declined by 130 million since 1990. Since the Monterrey Conference in 2001, aid has increased by over 50 billion US dollars.

The World Summit gave increased attention to development issues, forging a vital link between security, development and human rights in the fight against poverty.

But this is not enough.

If we are to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, we have to do more.

The primary responsibility lies with the developing countries themselves – they are in charge. Good governance must be the guiding principle at all levels.

Donor countries should actively support the efforts of the developing countries to reduce poverty and land their full support to the developing countries in their efforts

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to increase their participation in international trade.

The High-level Panel on UN System wide Coherence provides a unique opportunity to revitalize the support of the United Nations to the developing countries. If the UN can become more effective at country level, it will be able to mobilize more resources and ensure that they will reach the countries in need.

Madame President,

Sweden has always given high priority to the strengthening of the United Nations.

During this session, it is essential that we stay focused on implementing the decisions already taken, and continue to seek agreement on outstanding issues from the Summit.

We created the Peacebuilding Commission as a tool to assist countries to manage the difficult transition from post-conflict situations. The country-specific commissions

That is why we adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the General Assembly a couple of weeks ago. It sends a strong political message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. This strategy should now be implemented, with full respect for human rights.

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