

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will depart today for a working visit to the USA; the main focus of the visit will be the annual United National General Assembly and a speech to introduce the views of the Republic of Estonia.

The Estonian Head of State will facilitate a panel discussion of heads of state and government at the summit to discuss the Millennium Development Goals on Wednesday, which will focus on issues related to development assistance and the debt load of developing countries.

President Ilves will deliver a speech at the East Central European Centre at Columbia University on the same day.

During the week, bilateral meetings with the leaders of other countries and the UN Secretary General will also take place, apart from the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. President Ilves and Mrs. Evelin Ilves will also take part in a reception organised by the President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama, and Mrs. Michelle Obama.

As usual, the Head of State's regular annual autumn visit to New York will include a reception for Estonians and friends of Estonia who are living in the US.

President Ilves will return to Estonia on 27th September.

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