

Mister President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall speak today on four fundamental topics: climate change, cyber security, conflict resolution, and co-operation among international organizations.

In accordance with the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the Kyoto Protocol, industrialised countries are obligated to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. Estonia has already achieved the basic target of the Kyoto Protocol – our emissions of greenhouse gases have been cut back by over 50%. Fully subscribing to the EU statement on the post-2012 vision for international climate released by the Portuguese Presidency, we hope that the negotiations concerning a new global climate deal will reach a new comprehensive and global political agreement already by December 2009.

Yes, we recognise that developing countries have special needs in the areas of sustainable economic growth and eradication of poverty. But we also need to decouple economic growth from energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Investing into energy efficiency will have a huge impact on our future. Diversification of energy supply and larger use of renewable energies is the way forward. All of us should assume our share of common responsibilities in increasing energy efficiency.

The resources and technology for decarbonisation come primarily from industrial nations. Therefore, we need to continue the dialogue between industrialised and developing nations concerning the adoption of a green economy – reducing carbon fuel dependency, and counterbalancing climate change caused by human activities. We need to promote technology transfer, necessary for developing environment-friendly energy production. Estonia believes the best way would be to tie development and investment in clean technologies.

Mister President,

If in the past people were connected by sea lanes and trade routes, then today we are ever more connected by the Internet, along with the threats that loom in cyber-space. Cyber attacks are a clear example of contemporary asymmetrical threats to security. They make it possible to paralyse a society, with limited means, and from a distance. In the future, cyber attacks may in the hands of criminals or terrorists or terrorist states become a considerably more widespread and dangerous weapon than they are at present.

Cyber attacks are a threat not only to sophisticated information technological systems, but also to a community as a whole. For example, they could be used to paralyse a city's emergency medical services. The threats posed by cyber warfare have often been underestimated since, fortunately, they have so far not resulted in the loss of any lives. Also, for security reasons, the details of cyber attacks are often not publicised. In addition to concrete technical and legal measures for countering cyber attacks, governments must morally define the cyber violence and crime, which deserve to be generally condemned just like terrorism or the trafficking in human beings. Fighting against cyber warfare is in the interests of us all. This requires both appropriate domestic measures as well as international efforts.

In April and May of this year Estonia successfully coped with an extensive cyber attack, and we are prepared to share with other countries the know-how we have acquired. We call upon the international community to cooperate in legal matters in questions concerning cyber security. But, since this whole subject is a relatively new field, it is essential to establish an appropriate legal space. As a first step, we call upon all countries to accede to the Convention on Cyber Crime of the Council of Europe. The Convention is also open for accession for non-members of the Council of Europe.

We should move ahead and create a truly international framework to combat these vicious acts. The Global Cybersecurity Agenda of the International Telecommunications Union, launched by the Secretary-General in May, is an important initiative for building international cooperation in this field. Estonia also agrees with the assessment of the specialists of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, that a globally negotiated and comprehensive Law of Cyber-Space is essential, and that the UN can provide the neutral and legitimate forum for this task.

Mister President,

The UN is determined to resolve conflicts. Conflict prevention and resolution, particularly in Africa, is understandably a top priority. We welcome the creation of a United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force to quell the violence and instability plaguing the Darfur region of Sudan.

It is important to settle conflicts in other places as well, such as in Afghanistan. We need to increase the presence and visibility of the UN, which would be an encouraging sign for the local population, and also send a signal for the international aid organizations and NGOs to increase their activities. The United Nations should also assume a greater role in coordinating the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan.

I would like to highlight one conflict in Europe where the UN has a significant role to play – the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. Along with the other frozen conflicts in the neighbouring region, it remains one of the last unresolved conflicts in Europe. I wish the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General determination to find solutions, which honour Georgia's territorial integrity. We can not be satisfied with the current situation. It is important to build confidence between parties and resume the meetings between the representatives of Georgia's government and Abkhazia. There is no place for military provocations, internal or external. A major task of the UN remains the facilitation of the return of refugees to Abkhazia, which has unfortunately been significantly hampered. Progress regarding the conflict is possible if all interested parties act in a constructive way. We must generate the necessary political will to resolve the conflict, and in this context I welcome the EU's increased contribution.

Mister President,

The international community should also secure the best and the most rational use of available resources, including in emergency and crisis response situations. For example, both the UN and EU were involved in managing the response to the Asian Tsunami in 2004 and the Lebanese crisis in 2006. It once again brought forth the necessity to develop common needs assessments – to further discuss the roles and mandates of the relevant actors, like the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the DG/ECHO of the European Commission, and the Civil Protection Mechanism of the EU.

Poverty, armed conflicts, and natural disasters such as floods, tsunamis, or forest fires are all causes of another global problem – forced migration, which should also be tackled in a more concerted manner by the whole international community. Being forced to leave one's home is

always a tragedy. I know. My family was forced to leave my country by Soviet occupation forces. Trying to integrate into a new society is always a significant challenge. Only with well-coordinated common efforts can we ensure that people should never have to leave their homes because they have no other option. Thus, a global approach to people's migration should remain a vital issue on the United Nation's agenda.

Thank you!