

**Maintaining international peace and security: Reflect on history, reaffirm  
the strong commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the  
United Nations**

**Statement**

**by Mr Tim Mawe**

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***[Check against delivery]***

Mr President,

I would like to thank China as Council Presidency for organising today's debate on this important subject. I would also like to align myself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr President,

In your concept note for this debate, you rightly state that the UN is "the result of mankind's long struggle for peace and development". You go on to re-state one of the primary objectives of the United Nations: to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Over the past 70 years, the United Nations has played its role in ensuring the avoidance of another global cataclysm on the scale of the two major wars of the last century. But the past 70 years have not, unfortunately, been marked purely by peace and development. There have been too many conflicts that have claimed the lives of millions of people across the globe, more and more of them entirely innocent civilians.

At the same time, we have witnessed an unprecedented rise in global development. A global population of 2.5 billion in 1945 is today some 7 billion. Global life expectancy has increased dramatically, from an average of 46 years in the post-war period, to nearly 70 today. A larger population, married to new technology, scientific development and free trade, has also led to huge economic growth, providing much higher living standards across the globe.

Of course, development has not occurred evenly. We face huge challenges in ensuring that children born in developing countries have access to the health care and other resources that will allow them, and their societies, to develop to

their full potential, while rapid economic growth has also degraded the environment.

Ireland is honoured to be the co-facilitator, with Kenya, of the intergovernmental negotiations which will lead to the adoption later this year of the post-2015 development agenda.

As we look back over the experience of the past 70 years, what other lessons can we draw?

Much of the period was overshadowed by the cold war, and the existential threat of a nuclear conflict which would have devastated the world and its inhabitants. The imminence of that danger may have receded, but Ireland, along with many fellow members, continues to work for a world free of nuclear weapons and the dangers they pose, along with other disarmament objectives.

The end of the Cold War was not the end of history some foretold. A complex multi-polar world has emerged. It is one where even the largest and best-resourced nations struggle to deal with threats from much smaller and dispersed enemies.

We recognise that in the 70 years of the United Nations and the 60 years of our membership, a lot has changed. However, for Ireland, our values remain unaltered. We stand for A Fairer World; A Just World; A Secure World and A Sustainable World. In defending these values, we are, like you Mr President, firmly committed to the multilateral framework and the rule of international law for the conduct of international relations.

In doing so, we are guided by the following principles:

- Dialogue and compromise as the solution to intractable conflicts between peoples;
- Respect for the rule of law and solidarity within the international community when a democratic State is threatened;
- A strong commitment to peacekeeping while preserving Irish military neutrality;
- The critical importance of development; and,
- The promotion of human rights - particularly the rights of minorities and of women and girls in this troubled world.

Mr President,

The current threats to international peace and security, and those which occupy this Council on a daily basis, are manifold.

The principle of dialogue and compromise as the solution to intractable conflicts between peoples is one that guided my Government during the lengthy peace process in Northern Ireland. The Irish Government, working closely with the British government, endeavoured to keep a focus on the ultimate goal of peace during many difficulties and setbacks that threatened to derail the entire process. I would hope that others engaged in promoting peace benefit from a similar approach.

Mr President,

If the Security Council is to uphold its responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security, it must be fit for purpose. Along with ACT colleagues, we continue to press for a Council that is more open, more transparent and more accountable. We acknowledge the improvements made in the past year but reiterate that there is much more that can be done if the will is there to do so.

Separately, we will participate actively in the intergovernmental negotiations on reform of the composition of the Security Council. Bringing the composition of the Security Council into line with the realities of today's world is long overdue and it is our earnest hope that this work, under Ambassador Rattray's guidance, can be brought to a conclusion this year as the UN celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mr President,

The United Nations continues to critically reflect on how it can best serve its members, and meet its objectives. Ireland, as a significant and longstanding contributor to peace keeping missions, looks forward to this year's Review of Peace Operations led by José Ramos Horta. We equally look forward to the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, and the Global Study on the implementation of Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. These three reviews reflect the reality that maintaining peace and security is complex and requires longer term engagement in addition to responding to immediate crises.

Placed alongside the agreements being pursued on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, we can make this a landmark year in the United Nations which will enhance the global significance and impact of the Organisation, and the way in which the goals of the Charter are fulfilled.

Let us have the courage to see each of these processes to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.

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