United Nations Security Council, Speeches from Meeting S/PV.4194, 4194th meeting, 7 September 2000, http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scact2000.htm

## **The President [of the Security Council]** (spoke in French):

I now give the floor to the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Mr. William Jefferson Clinton.

**President Clinton:** We come together in this historic meeting to discuss the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security.

I thank President Konaré for the minute of silence for the United Nations workers who died in West Timor yesterday, and I ask the Indonesian authorities to bring those responsible to justice, to disarm and disband the militias and to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of those continuing to work towards humanitarian goals there.

Today, I would like to focus my peacekeeping remarks on Africa, where prosperity and freedom have advanced, but where conflict still holds back progress. I cannot help noting that this historic meeting in this historic Chamber is led by a President and a Secretary-General who are both outstanding Africans. Africa's achievements and the strengths of the United Nations are evident. Mozambique and Namibia are just two success stories.

But we ask the United Nations to act under increasingly complex conditions. We see it in Sierra Leone, where United Nations action saved lives but could not preserve the peace. Now we are working to strengthen the mission. In the Horn of Africa, United Nations peacekeeping will monitor the separation of forces so recently engaged in brutal combat. In Congo, civil strife still threatens the lives of thousands of people, and warring parties prevent the United Nations from implementing its mandate.

We must do more to equip the United Nations to do what we ask it to do. It needs to be able to have peacekeepers who can be rapidly deployed, properly trained and equipped, and able to project credible force. That, of course, is the thrust of the report on peacekeeping reform transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General. The United States strongly supports that report. It should define the goal of our assistance for West African forces now going into Sierra Leone.

Let me also say a word, however, beyond peacekeeping. It seems to me that, both for Africa and for the entire world, we will be forced increasingly to define security more broadly. The United Nations was created to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. War kills massively, crosses borders, destabilizes whole regions. Today, we face other problems that kill massively, cross borders and destabilize whole regions: a quarter of all the deaths on the planet now are caused by infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. Because of AIDS alone, life expectancy in some African nations is plummeting by as much as 30 years. Without aggressive prevention, the epicentre of the epidemic likely will move to Asia by 2010, with very rapid growth rates in the new independent States.

The affected nations must do more on prevention, but the rest of us must do more too — not just with AIDS, but also with malaria and tuberculosis. We must invest in the basics: clean water, safe food, good sanitation and health education. We must make sure that the advancements in science work for all people. The United States is investing \$2 billion a year in AIDS research, including \$210 million for an AIDS vaccine, and I have asked our Congress to give a tax credit of \$1 billion to speed the development in the

private sector of vaccines against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. We have to give a tax credit because the people who need the medicine cannot afford to pay for it as it is. We have worked to make drugs more affordable and we will do more. We have doubled our global assistance for AIDS prevention and care over the last two years.

Unfortunately, the United Nations has estimated that to meet our goals we will collectively need to provide an additional \$4 billion a year. We must join together to help close that gap. And we must advance the larger agenda to fight the poverty that breeds conflict and war. I strongly support the goal of universal access to primary education by 2015. We are helping to move towards that goal in part through our effort to provide school lunches to 9 million boys and girls in developing nations. For about \$3 billion a year collectively we could provide a nutritious meal to every child in every developing country in a school in the world. That would dramatically change the future for a lot of poor nations today.

We have agreed to triple the scale of debt relief for the poorest countries, but we should do more. This idea of relieving debt, if the savings will be invested in the human needs of the people, is an idea whose time came long ago, and I hope we will do much more.

Finally, Mr. Secretary-General, you have called on us to support the millennium ecosystem assessment. We have to meet the challenge of climate change. I predict that within a decade, or maybe even a little less, this will become as large an obstacle to the development of poor nations as disease is today. The United States will contribute the first complete set of detailed satellite images of the world's threatened forests to this project. We will continue to support aggressive efforts to implement the Kyoto Protocol and other objectives that will reduce the environmental threats we face.

Now let me just say in closing that some people will listen to this discussion and say, "Well, peacekeeping has something to do with security, but these other issues do not have anything to do with security and do not belong in the Security Council." This is my last meeting, and I just have to say that I respectfully disagree. These issues will increasingly be considered by the Security Council.

Until we confront the iron link between deprivation, disease and war, we will never be able to create the peace that the founders of the United Nations dreamed of. I hope the United States will always be willing to do its part, and I hope that the Security Council increasingly will have a twenty-first century vision of security that we can all embrace and pursue.

**The President [of the Security Council]** (*spoke in French*): I thank the President of the United States of America for his statement and for his kind words addressed to me.