

Press Release

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UN General Assembly unanimously adopts resolution on heightened co-operation with the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 04.11.2008 - Calling for closer co-operation between the UN General Assembly and the Council of Europe, a new four-page resolution praises the Council of Europe for specific recent initiatives, such as the entry into force earlier this year of the Council of Europe Convention against human trafficking and the Council of Europe's Campaign to combat violence against women.

"Some people argue that a world facing economic turmoil and terrorist threats should have other priorities than human rights," Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis said in a debate at the General Assembly before the vote. "They could not be more wrong."

"It is at times like these that there is an even greater need for the values of humanity, a greater need for justice, for equality, for solidarity, for tolerance and for mutual respect," he stressed.

Among other specific actions, the resolution encourages further co-operation between the two Organisations regarding the fight against money laundering, cybercrime and corruption and calls for closer joint efforts to promote democracy and good governance, recommending strengthened links, for example, between the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the Council of Europe project on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights.

The resolution is "a good illustration of the fact that Europe is not alone," added Secretary General Terry Davis. "We know that we are part of the majority here in the United Nations General Assembly."

[Link to the speech by Terry Davis](#)

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.