



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE 63RD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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“Confidence in the Future”

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,
Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,

Please accept my sincere appreciation to our outgoing President, His Excellency Srgjan Kerim and my warmest congratulations on your own election, Mr. President.

Brunei Darussalam wishes you every success in the coming year and we offer you our fullest support.

My congratulations also go to the Government and people of Nicaragua and I offer them my very best wishes for peace, happiness and prosperity.

Mr. President,

This is a wish, of course, that we also offer all our fellow members.

We very much enjoy working with them, sharing experiences, voicing concerns, and hearing each other's thoughts and ideas.

I say this, Mr. President, because the coming year is a very special one for Brunei Darussalam.

In September next year, we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our membership of the United Nations.

And we thank the organisation and fellow members for giving us the opportunity to play a part in a world we all share.

The global challenges we now face demand that every nation big or small should work together.

That is why, Mr. President, we will offer whatever we can to support this world organisation.

We will also support all its efforts to address political, economic and social concerns.

We will help with recovery from natural disasters.

We will join fellow members in protecting not only the environment but also the cultures of small societies like our own.

And we will respect the values of the various faiths held by the people this organisation represents.

In more specific terms, Mr. President, it is why Brunei Darussalam strongly supports the role of the United Nations in the Quartet working to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

It is why we ask the WTO to recognise the impact its work has on the stability of small, fragile societies.

And we ask its strong and influential members not to give up the search for a fair solution to an equitable world trading system acceptable to all nations.

It is also why we acknowledge the work of the Secretary-General in working with ASEAN to help our neighbour in Myanmar in recovering from the terrible effects of Cyclone Nargis this year.

It is the reason behind our work with our neighbours in Indonesia and Malaysia to conserve the priceless heritage of the rainforests of Borneo by placing over half our territory under environmental protection in the "Heart of Borneo" project.

It is why we affirm the right of all small nations and the fragile societies and values they uphold to continue their way of life with security today and hope for the future.

And it is why we have supported world-wide dialogue between faiths to promote tolerance and value each other's deepest beliefs.

Mr. President,

I offer this appreciation and support for a particular reason.

A new generation of international leaders is slowly beginning to shape the future.

It is my privilege here to speak not only on behalf of all our people but, especially, on behalf of this new generation in our country.

The twentieth century is indeed history and the twenty-first century is plainly here, creating its new set of internal and external dynamics.

We clearly recognise this in my own region. It is why ASEAN's leaders have signed a new Charter. It is why we and our fellow members of the OIC, have equally acknowledged this in amending the OIC's charter and accepting the far-reaching objectives of the Makkah Programme of Action.

Underlying both these moves is the deep desire of leaders who are handing over to their successors to ensure that their people have hope and confidence in the future by being given the chance to join the twenty-first century.

Our people must be able to participate to the full. And the new generation of leaders must have the chance to help them do that. We have to provide this confidence.

By this, I mean the confidence that comes from education, modern training, health care, and the knowledge that their culture, values and faith are safe.

If there is one broad lesson to be learned from the security crises that have marked the start of this century, it is that security is not an abstract concept.

Nor is it simply the traditional tasks of upholding the law and fighting crime. At its heart are deeply felt feelings of unfairness.

What we are asking for, is the chance to address these causes at a very basic level.

Mr. President,

In this task, we therefore turn to the United Nations for help.

We deeply acknowledge the work of the United Nations agencies in the field and their experts, staff and selfless volunteers. In particular, we thank UNESCO and the WHO.

We see the success of both these organisations as essential in providing our people with the confidence I have mentioned.

In Brunei Darussalam, we had the privilege of hosting our first UNESCO Science and Technology Camp in 2006, and we have been deeply impressed by the agency's relevance to the needs of ordinary people trying to meet the challenges of the modern world.

We especially support UNESCO's commitment to the process of dialogue and negotiation as the only lasting means of resolving confrontation no matter how painstaking the process may be at times.

In similar fashion, we have also long supported the invaluable work of the WHO.

We and our neighbours have greatly benefited from the exceptional international research advice and practical assistance that this organisation has constantly offered and for which we are most grateful.

Mr. President,

I have briefly outlined Brunei Darussalam's support for the United Nations and its current objectives.

Above all, we are committed to the work of its agencies as they attempt to help us all achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

I have spoken of how a new generation of leaders can offer its people the hope that comes from confidence in the future.

The United Nations is the organisation that gives us a fair chance to deliver this hope.

That is all we ask, Mr. President, because for us the twenty first century presents us with a very difficult journey and the United Nations is the compass that directs us towards a hopeful future.

Thank you, Mr. President and my very best wishes to all our fellow members.

