



THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

STATEMENT

BY

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Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

2015 will be a crucial year for the United Nations and the international community.

In the coming year, we will reach the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and we will adopt the post-2015 Development Agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2015, we should adopt a new legally binding global climate agreement.

The international community will also commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations next year.

Mr. President,

At this juncture, we will have to ask ourselves to what extent we have achieved the ideals set out in the UN Charter and what is still to be done.

We must also ask ourselves to what extent the institutional framework laid down almost 70 years ago is still valid today.

Inequality both amongst nations and within nations is still a matter of great concern.

In spite of the constant reference to Rule of Law at national and international levels, we still do not always have the possibility of recourse to adequate machinery for resolving legal disputes between States.

Within the UN itself, the principle of equality is not always honoured whether in its constitutional framework or in practice.

The twin pillars of Peace and Security, on one hand, and Development, on the other, provided in the UN Charter have been undermined by the pre-eminence of political issues at the expense of development issues, which are still often largely seen in terms of safeguarding dominant interests rather than from a global cooperation perspective.

Inequality and vulnerability are increasing in rich and poor countries alike. Unemployment, precarious employment, lack of social protection, access to human development services, access to financial services are still of universal concern.

The post-2015 development agenda cannot be only about human rights – civil, political, economic, - at the national level but must also ensure that, at the international level, the Right to Development is upheld.

As we work on a new comprehensive development agenda, we must ascertain that no 'right' is ignored and no one is left behind.

A UN System Team proposed that the transformative change towards inclusive, people-centred sustainable development should be guided by three fundamental principles:

1. Human Rights;
 2. Equality;
 3. Sustainability;
- and have four core dimensions:
1. Inclusive Social Development,
 2. Environmental Sustainability,
 3. Inclusive Economic Development,
 4. Peace and Security.

Mauritius is in broad agreement with the core principles and dimensions, outlined in the Team's report, that should guide the transformative change at both national and international levels.

Mr. President,

The war against Ebola demands robust action from all of us and requires exceptional international cooperation. We welcome the initiatives announced last week and we commit ourselves to extending our full support to addressing this global challenge.

Mr. President,

The water we drink, the food we eat and the energy we require are vital for meaningful development.

It is estimated that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world population could live under water stress conditions.

One in eight people in the world today, i.e. 842 million are undernourished. Approximately two billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. In 2030, it is estimated there will be an increase in food demand of more than 50%.

Mauritius supports the Secretary-General's call for the "Zero Hunger Challenge".

Promoting sustainable agriculture has to be an essential component of the new development framework.

It is further estimated that by 2035, there will be an increase in global energy demand, by at least 33%. Currently, 1.2 billion people do not have access to electricity.

Those growing demands will make of water, food and energy, crucial issues not only on the development agenda but also within the wider context of international peace and security.

The international community should support developing countries, in particular vulnerable countries such as SIDS, in their efforts to promote water governance and integrated water resources management, increase the share of renewables in the energy mix and improve energy conservation and energy efficiency.

Mr. President,

In order to support global development, it is crucial to have an international regime based on structured global cooperation that promotes technology facilitation.

A Technology Facilitation Mechanism under the aegis of the UN can play a central role in this regard.

The international community needs to recognize the vital role of women and youth and their enhanced participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development.

Promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment should be one of the core issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

All sections of the population should be at the heart of a people-centered sustainable development vision.

Mr. President,

The inputs of all processes initiated in Rio in 2012, including, the Open Working Group on SDGs, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and options for the technology facilitation mechanism, need to feed into the preparation of the 2015 development Summit.

These processes should also be included in the Secretary General's synthesis report.

The deliberations of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States that was mandated by the Rio+20 Outcome document, should be taken on board in this synthesis report and in the post-2015 development agenda.

Since accountability is essential to assess progress, the post-2015 development agenda should include an accountability framework that would be universal but flexible enough to take into account different capacities and responsibilities.

We also need more accountable and equitable global economic governance that ensures wider, more inclusive participation in decision-making.

The UN system, given its universal membership, must assume leadership and a proactive role in promoting sound and equitable governance in a more resilient global economic architecture.

Mr. President,

Beyond these immediate concerns, there is a number of longer-term threats that can dramatically affect all of us, particularly SIDS.

One of these is CLIMATE CHANGE.

Climate Risks are real and must be addressed.

From melting glaciers to more frequent wild fires and intense cyclones, flash floods, extreme heat waves, ocean acidification, the challenges are not a future threat but already existing ones.

The latest IPCC report made it clear that a two-degree increase in the world's temperature would be dangerous, and four degrees would be catastrophic.

Climate risks are global challenges which require global solutions.

Climate poses risks to the environment, but also to global economic prosperity, development and security.

We must build on the momentum of the Climate Summit and use the opportunity in Lima to further raise the level of ambition leading up to a new universal climate agreement in Paris next year.

The strong linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction should be recognised.

No country is immune to natural disasters but it is the most vulnerable countries and the most vulnerable people that are hit the hardest.

Mauritius looks forward to a renewed and ambitious international framework for disaster risk management that places disaster risk reduction as a key element of the post-2015 development agenda.

We further believe that the exogenous risks of climate change and natural disasters should be integrated into mainstream economic thinking and assessment of macroeconomic risks.

We welcome the decision of the last Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, to establish a Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub, to be hosted by Mauritius, to address critical gaps in building the capacity of SIDS and LDCs to identify, access and manage climate finance.

Mr. President,

The special circumstances, vulnerabilities and low resilience of SIDS, should be taken into account with regard to financing and trade issues. SIDS need special and differential treatment to access concessionary sources of financing for sustainable development and to effectively participate in multilateral trade.

Mauritius strongly supports SIDS-SIDS partnerships. SIDS can build on their commonality of interests to share experiences, pool resources and act collectively in commissioning technology or formulating legal and regulatory frameworks, for instance.

Mr. President,

The Oceans are the new frontier for economic development. For SIDS, in particular, they are the best scope for expanding economic space.

Following a national dialogue on the Ocean Economy, the Government of Mauritius has published a Roadmap on the Ocean Economy. The Roadmap sets out the vision, goals and strategies for the development and expansion of a new pillar of our economy.

In order to provide the best possible conditions for investors to operate and create wealth, Mauritius is putting in place an enabling environment that will support our Ocean Economy through an integrated and holistic approach to ensure coherence and balance between economic growth, social development and environment protection.

Promoting the Ocean Economy will unleash the potential for SIDS with respect to all ocean-related economic activities, both onshore and offshore. This will also enable them

to enhance their nations' food security, harness the winds and waves for their energy needs, develop new ocean-related industries and services that will create opportunities for entrepreneurs and employment for the youth.

It is essential that we strike a balance between the various uses of the oceans and the need to protect our Oceans.

At the Samoa Conference, the international community agreed to build upon existing partnerships and promote new ones in order to expand the economic space of large ocean States.

We wish to reiterate our call for the United Nations to adopt a Global Oceans Strategy that will be the operational counterpart to UNCLOS. Whilst it will be for individual States to decide on their own Ocean Economy policies, the GOS will provide an overall vision and framework for sustainable development of ocean-related economic activities for policy makers, investors and all stakeholders.

Mr. President,

The situation in the Middle East and in certain parts of Africa could have dramatic consequences not only for the people of these regions but also impact on global development and peace.

We urge the international community to spare no effort in resolving the plight of the people of Palestine. Mauritius supports the two-State solution to the conflict. The people of the State of Palestine have suffered for too long from the grave injustice done to them and must be allowed to live in dignity and peace within recognised borders.

Mr. President,

To remain credible and play the constructive role it can and must play in the new world order, the UN must respond to the call of its membership for reform.

We have a duty to engage, in meaningful discussions on reform of the Security Council, revitalization of the General Assembly and the working methods of our organization.

Mauritius reaffirms its commitment to the African Common position that reform of the Security Council should include expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

The historical injustice done to Africa should be redressed and Africa should be accorded permanent representation on the Council.

Latin America also deserves permanent representation and SIDS should be entitled to a seat on the Council.

Mauritius further reiterates its support for India's rightful aspiration to a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.

Mr. President,

In the mid 60's, when a wave of decolonisation was sweeping across the world the United Kingdom purported to create a new colony, the so-called BIOT, by carving out part of the territory of Mauritius.

Thus, part of Mauritian territory remains under colonial rule.

As long as part of Mauritian territory remains under colonial rule, decolonisation of Africa will still remain incomplete.

The dismemberment by the United Kingdom of part of the territory of Mauritius prior to independence was and continues to be a blatant breach of international law and total disregard of United Nations resolutions.

Speaking before this Assembly last week President Obama said, there is one vision of the world in which might makes right, but that "America stands for something different. We believe that right makes might-that bigger nations should not be able to bully smaller ones..."

This is why, last year at this very forum, Mauritius urged the United States to be on the right side of history and not to condone illegal acts by maintaining its presence on Diego Garcia under an unlawful arrangement with the UK which does not have a valid title to the island and instead to ensure that in the future, such presence is on the right side of the law.

Both the United States and the United Kingdom should recognise the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos and engage, in good faith, in meaningful discussions with Mauritius over arrangements to be made in this regard.

Following the statements we have heard over the last year in connection with sovereignty and territorial integrity, there should not be a set of standards for one part of the world and a different one for another part of the world. Those who show no respect for fundamental principles across the board lose all moral authority to preach to the rest of the world.

Mr. President,

Mauritius and France have, following bilateral discussions on Tromelin Island which forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius, agreed on interim measures without prejudice to the sovereignty of Mauritius. An agreement reached in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue is a step in the right direction.

As we embark on a new session that could herald a new page in the UN's history we should renew our commitment to multilateral cooperation for peace, development and prosperity for all nations in the new agenda we will be adopting next year.

Thank you.