



Permanent Mission of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations

Statement

By

His Excellency Dr. the Honorable Timothy Harris

**Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade,
Industry and Commerce**

of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis

at the 61st Regular Session

of the United Nations General Assembly

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Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Honourable Ministers of Government, Mr. Secretary General, Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis extends heartfelt congratulations to you, Madam President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the General Assembly. Your tenure comes at an extremely difficult period in the International Community, as tensions and instability have surfaced during the past twelve months, and this United Nations has also embarked on a series of global altering reforms.

My delegation is confident that you will rise to the challenges and steer this body competently during the 61st Session. The Kingdom of Bahrain has shown its leadership role in your region and throughout the world, and as a product of your country, you will make your nation proud.

My delegation would also like to extend well wishes to Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly, who exhibited all of the fine qualities of a master statesman and led the charge in a proficient manner on the very positive reforms that have taken place over the past year. Congratulations to you, Sir.

Madam President, permit to express my Government's gratitude to a true diplomat, Mr. Kofi Annan, who steered the United Nations through some difficult waters over the last decade, and who remained a beacon of hope and pride throughout the entire journey.

The Government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis would like to welcome the Republic of Montenegro into the United Nations family. You have taken the bold step to play an active role in the international discourse, and we applaud you for this initiative.

Madam President, this year's theme "Implementing a Global Partnership for Development" coincides with my country's thrust of linking the need for Human Rights with the desire for a comprehensive and sustainable Human Development strategy. For too long the issues of Human Rights and Human Development have not always run parallel. My delegation believes that this oversight needs to be corrected.

Over the years the International Community has focused either on human rights violations, or we have sought means to ensure that human development occurs. What has transpired at times unfortunately is a withdrawal of resources from one programme to supplement the other, which would then have adverse effects on one or the other. What I suggest today is a strategy of linking both Human Rights and Human Development to ensure that our peoples are nurtured in a holistic manner.

Many of us may recall during this past General Assembly, when the Human Rights Council was being established, there was a call for the Right to Development to be included within the broader theme of Human Rights.

My delegation believes that this in principle is still necessary. At the same time, we also believe that development in all of its forms cannot occur with any long-term benefits without Human Rights being infused with this development.

We propose that during the 61st Session, this body ensures that the drive for a global partnership for development is pursued with a thought to ensure that Human Rights and Human Development run in tandem with each other and in effect complement each other.

My delegation believes that only through this initiative can true global partnerships for development occur.

CARICOM Experience

Madam President, these ideals can be achieved. St. Kitts and Nevis has witnessed this possibility first hand. Within our regional grouping of CARICOM, the Caribbean Community, we have embarked upon a regional partnership for development, and in this development we have ensured that the rights of our citizens and the development of our people are at the forefront of our regional partnership.

A few months ago, we formally established the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, the CSME. This was an initiative years in the making, and CARICOM Member States remained cognizant of all of the effects that this initiative would have on its people and addressed them all.

We acknowledged that there would be growing pains but we also realized that for our nationals to truly benefit in this rapidly globalizing world it was necessary. However my CARICOM colleagues and I have sought to minimize any short-term negative effects.

For a country like my own, which only recently made the painful decision to close our three hundred and sixty year old sugar industry, the partnerships we have nurtured within CARICOM have helped to ease the pain and helped to prepare us for the Single Market.

This, Madam President, is what we need on a global scale: Partnerships towards development ensuring that human rights and human development for every state are considered and taken care of.

The Republic of China (Taiwan)

Madam President, whatever way is deemed most appropriate it should begin with mutual respect and a commitment to understand each other. We live in a diverse world, and owing to Globalisation, this diversity is felt now more than ever. If we do not strive to respect and understand each other, tensions will mount and instability will reign.

This is why St. Kitts and Nevis has stood at this podium time and time again and called for the human rights of the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to be acknowledged in this body. The Republic of China (Taiwan) is a democratic country that has continued to embody the principles of the United Nations. This country has continued to ensure that human rights and human development are nurtured and preserved together, and this country has many contributions to make in the pursuit of a global partnership for development. It has been a great and magnificent friend to several member states of the UN, and not just those with which it has diplomatic ties.

We, as the pre-eminent international body, owe the Republic of China (Taiwan) and its 23 million people, our support and acceptance, and we owe ourselves the benefit of having the Republic of China (Taiwan) fully participating in the UN system.

Haiti and The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Madam President, my delegation would like to single out and applaud two of our Member States of the United Nations for striving to overcome periods of instability and uncertainty through the democratic process. During the course of this year the people of the Republic of Haiti, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo went to the polls following prolonged periods of turmoil. For the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than two generations have passed between democratic elections. The Caribbean Community was especially pleased with this important step taken by the Republic of Haiti and we were able to welcome it back into our fold.

These landmark events could not have occurred without there being a concerted effort by all concerned to embark on partnerships, respecting each other and striving for full and comprehensive human rights and human development, along with the desire for peace.

This is a fragile period for these countries, but my delegation lauds their efforts and initiatives and we stand firm in our commitment to join in the global partnership for development of these two countries.

Follow-up

Madam President, one year ago, the Heads of State and Government of the majority of Member States of this body signed on to the World Summit Outcome. This document was viewed as the catalyst for a renewed commitment to a global partnership on Development, Security, and Human Rights.

During the 60th Session, this commitment was further solidified with the establishment of the Peace Building Commission and the Human Rights Council. Dialogue continued on issues relating to the reform of the United Nations. However, more commitment and partnership are needed to see these reforms come to fruition.

There has been continued dialogue, but too often it appears that we are stuck in an impasse. Greater effort is needed to build consensus so as to move the process along. I

am optimistic that the same resolve and dedication that were exhibited one year ago can resurface to resolve these outstanding issues.

We must make the concerted effort. I cannot stress this enough. If we were to be honest with ourselves, we would acknowledge that the principles of the United Nations have not been at the forefront of our negotiations and that human rights and human development have not been preserved. I have already alluded to our diversity, but this must not continue to produce adversity. Rather, it should produce a more holistic reform agenda.

UN Reform

St. Kitts and Nevis remains committed to action on the reform of the United Nations. The Reform of the United Nations must be transparent. Three of the more contentious areas of reform of the United Nations have revolved around the issue of transparency. I speak of the reform of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the process of selecting the Secretary General.

The United Nations has evolved. We all have to come to terms with this fact. The body that existed sixty-one years ago could not operate in the world of today. Full representation is necessary, and transparency is necessary. This is tantamount to a successful global partnership.

The 61st Session

Madam President, for this General Assembly, my delegation proposes a renewed emphasis on human rights and human development. We have actually begun in a very promising way with the recently concluded International Conference on Migration and Development.

Migrants have an impact on two countries; the one they leave and the one they migrate to. Through their work and their remittances, each migrant contributes to the development of both countries. It is imperative therefore that the human rights and human development of the migrants be taken into serious consideration to ensure even greater production and development in the countries involved.

Recently, Member States of the Least Developed Countries held a review of the Brussels Program of Action. My delegation supports the initiatives of the LDC Member States and stresses that human rights and development remain core principles in the partnership of LDCs and other members of the International Community.

For my own country of St. Kitts and Nevis, we ask that the International Community also remains committed to the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Program of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. (It is easy to focus on many other issues when particular ones have fallen off of the radar, however the concerns remain).

Development Challenges

Small Island Developing States remain vulnerable to natural disasters, to climate change and to the effects of globalisation and trade liberalization. We still need to examine the issue of graduation closely, and at our own pace. Our cultural products still remain susceptible to piracy, and we are still limited in reaping the benefits of science and technology. Developing countries are still locked out of the decision-making processes of global financial institutions whose policies often undermine and circumscribe development.

A true global partnership translates into consideration for every member state, be they big or small and the issues critical to them.

During the 61st Session, there will not be a High Level Conference on HIV/AIDS. However pandemics like HIV/AIDS continue to strike at the heart of development by crippling a nation's most important asset, namely, its people. Our Women, Children, Elderly and Disabled will remain at-risk sectors of our societies. Financing for Development will still be a major concern for all developing countries, and International Peace and Security will continue to affect us all.

Throughout most of this year, the majority of the UN Membership experienced an adverse impact of the energy crisis on growth and livelihoods in our countries. The UN family, comprising of producers and consumers of oil and energy products, must collectively address a global energy security pact incorporating the best practices on energy conservation and energy sources.

Development is a matter of extreme importance for all of us. What we need therefore is a holistic approach to our global partnership. All of our critical concerns need to be addressed. However it should begin, Madam President, with careful consideration for Human Rights and Human Development.

I thank you.