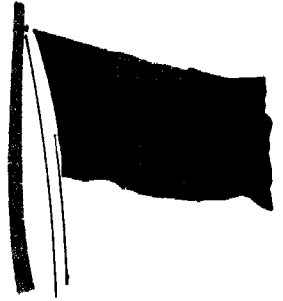




*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



**STATEMENT BY**

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**TO THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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*Please check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to join with the preceding speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Barbados delegation extends its appreciation to your predecessor, Her Excellency Mrs. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, for her leadership of the 61<sup>st</sup> session, and takes the opportunity also to offer its formal welcome to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

Since its independence in 1966 Barbados has been participating actively in the formulation of international policy on a number of issues of universal concern, and promoting the centrality of the United Nations in the global development debate. We are proud to have made our contribution to the critical negotiating processes on the development agenda.

Much work, however, remains to be done.

Permit me, Mr. President, to use this occasion to identify those outstanding areas to which Barbados accords priority importance and where we consider that urgent results-oriented action must be taken by the International Community. I refer specifically to:

- the effective and comprehensive implementation of the global partnership for development as set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius International Strategy;
- the provision of stable, predictable and adequate financial resources for the implementation of development commitments;
- the creation of a more enabling international environment that would facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by a majority of developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable amongst us;
- the recognition by the international community of the importance of providing continued support to the needs of middle income developing countries;
- the implementation of existing global agreements on Climate Change, as well as the early adoption of an ambitious and comprehensive post-Kyoto agreement;
- the protection and sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea;
- the successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations, with development as a central component of its outcome;
- the promotion of international cooperation on tax matters;
- the need for the reinforcement by the United Nations of its commitment to assist all member states in their efforts to combat the problems associated with the trafficking in and trans-shipment of illegal drugs as well as the consequent increase in violent crime; and;
- the need for progress on Security Council reform; and for sustained emphasis on revitalizing the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. President, the gap between promise and implementation continues to frustrate our achievement of the full range of internationally agreed development goals. The level of international cooperation and resources committed by development partners has been woefully inadequate. Small Island Developing States, for example, have to date assumed the majority of

the implementation burden of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius International Strategy, despite the fact that these goals were determined by the consensus of the entire international community. Similarly, the needs of middle-income developing countries were not adequately addressed through the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, and they continue to be deprived of the vital development support they require to complete the transition. Next year's Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development must seek to redress this situation.

Mr. President, there remain only eight years before we reach our target date of 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We must identify effective strategies to transform member states' political commitment to the MDGs into results-oriented, concrete action. We must forge strategic partnerships, not only within and across national borders that encompass varying levels of development and economic prosperity, but also amongst the public sector, the private sector and civil society.

Mr. President, it can no longer be denied that Climate Change is an alarming phenomenon that requires focused attention and urgent and decisive global action by the international community. I warmly commend Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for his initiative to convene the High-level Event on Climate Change on September 24<sup>th</sup> last. The presence of so large a number of Heads of State and Government at that important Session is a clear indication that the grave dimensions of the problem have been recognized, and the need for bold political leadership fully understood.

If we continue to delay action we will be judged harshly, and deservedly so, for callously placing the inheritance of future generations in greater jeopardy. For today we might have choices - tomorrow they will not.

Barbados is a small, low-lying island state, highly dependent on its coastal and marine environment for its economic activity. For its people the stakes could not be higher. Climate Change not only represents the most serious challenge to our sustainable development, it also threatens our very survival. As Prime Minister Arthur of Barbados said at the September 24 meeting: "there exists no reason, scientific nor political, for delaying an immediate response to this global crisis."

Barbados and the other members of the Caribbean Community have taken steps, at the national and regional levels, to develop and implement Climate Change mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans, largely from our own resources. However, the most efficient unilateral adaptation strategies will be futile in the absence of decisive global action to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and address Climate Change in a comprehensive manner.

Our leaders have underscored the imperative of collective action to address Climate Change with the United Nations at the centre of the search for lasting solutions to this problem. In December our negotiators in Bali must seize this moment in time.

Mr. President, the international community is yet to complete the DOHA Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, with an outcome in which development is at the core. While trade liberalization can assist in this process, much more is required if sustainable economic

development is to be achieved in the developing world. We firmly believe in a multilateral process, which will not only cater to the aspirations of the more developed countries, but will also address the needs of the developing countries, especially those small vulnerable economies like ours. I urge the international community to proceed with the multilateral trade negotiations with a view to reaching a successful and mutually beneficial outcome.

Mr. President, Barbados and the countries of CARICOM are neither major suppliers nor demand markets for illicit drugs. Yet, because of our geographical position and external factors largely beyond our control, we find ourselves affected by the illicit trafficking in drugs, small arms and light weapons, and their constant companion, transnational organized crime. As small countries with limited resources and severe vulnerabilities, we depend on international co-operation to counter these threats. The presence of the regional United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Barbados, which served a total of twenty-nine states and territories and provided significant technical assistance, was extremely important to the Caribbean region.

We are deeply concerned and not at all convinced that the decision taken unilaterally in Vienna to close this office translates into making our region safer from these very real threats. On the contrary, the study published earlier this year by the UNODC and the World Bank on: "Drugs, Crime and Development in Central America and the Caribbean" clearly demonstrates the need for an enhanced international effort in the region. It is our sincere hope that this unfortunate decision will be reversed as a matter of urgency and that the UN will once again engage the Caribbean region through the reopening of the Regional Office in Barbados.

Mr. President, the issue of reform of the Security Council has been under consideration by the General Assembly for several years. Member States have expressed their views, and group positions have been formulated, but firm decisions have eluded us. It is now time for political compromise in the negotiation of an acceptable solution. Barbados will continue to participate actively in this process.

Gender equity and the empowerment of women are critical to development at both national and international levels. There is need to improve the way in which gender is treated within the context of the United Nations. It is crucial that the proposal to establish a new gender architecture is further discussed at the inter-governmental level and all concerns addressed and taken into consideration before a final decision is made. Any new structure must give due prominence not only to normative and advocacy issues but also to issues of development, operational activities and adequate resources.

Mr. President, the deepening of the regional integration process is critical to the ability of CARICOM countries to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by changes in the global community. Having established the Single Market in 2006, our efforts are now focused on mechanisms to bring the Single Economy into effect through a process of phased implementation. The Single Economy will facilitate further integration of our production and financial sectors, the coordination of our economic sectoral policies, the convergence of macro-economic policies, the building of a regional capital market and the harmonization of monetary and fiscal policies.

Functional cooperation has been a central theme of the Caribbean Community from its inception. We believe that as small nations with so much in common, our best means of advancement lies in sharing our resources, experience and expertise to address mutual concerns. Health and education, and more recently security, are our foremost areas of resource pooling and research. Our region has the distinction of being one of the first to eradicate polio and smallpox. A fortnight ago, the region convened its first summit specifically to address chronic, non-communicable diseases, which have become the major causes of morbidity and mortality.

Mr. President, a stable, peaceful and prosperous Haiti is essential for the effective functioning of the Caribbean Community to which it belongs. There is continuing urgent need for substantial support from the international community to assist Haiti to consolidate and strengthen the commendable progress it has made to date. A prime requirement is the further extension by the Security Council of the mandate of MINUSTAH, to include a focus on peace building, judicial reform, institutional support for the provision of basic services, and border management. We must address directly the humanitarian and socioeconomic needs of Haiti, if the majority of the population is to be lifted out of poverty and the underlying preconditions for threats to peace and security in the country are to be removed.

This year, many countries around the world, including Barbados, commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The horrors of the slave trade, particularly the notorious middle passage, were of such huge scale and intensity that it can truly be considered as one of the earliest crimes against humanity. This experience must never be repeated.

To bring closure to the criminal activity that was racial slavery, we need also to bring equity to the emancipation process. Addressing the controversial issue of reparations is essential to achieving these objectives.

This is not the first occasion that discussion on reparations has taken place and decisions have been taken. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Europeans accepted and enforced multiple forms of reparations.

Delivering the William Wilberforce Lecture in the United Kingdom earlier this year, Prime Minister Arthur proposed the establishment of a William Wilberforce Educational Fund. Barbados encourages all those countries which participated in and benefited from this iniquitous practice to support this important initiative. In so doing they will be paying tribute to the courage and moral convictions of all those who campaigned tirelessly for the end of the slave trade and slavery, and at the same time supporting the continuous evolutionary experiment in human relations that is represented in the ethnic pluralism of Caribbean societies.

Mr. President, in international affairs a multilateral approach is the best means for countries to address the world's most pressing problems fully and effectively. It is our collective responsibility to make sure that this organization, the epicenter of multilateralism, is reformed and revitalized to make it more accountable; a transparent and effective instrument in the service of the development efforts of all of its members.

Development is the key to sustainable international peace and security. In our quest to guarantee the primacy of development in the global agenda, we must make certain that the United Nations is sufficiently well funded to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable amongst us, to support the aspirations of middle income developing countries, and to facilitate the transition into developed country status of those who are so poised. The disproportionate allocation of Regular Budget resources away from the Development Agenda must be reversed without further delay.

There can no longer be a deficit in the world's development performance. We must all demonstrate the political will necessary to ensure this. It is, Mr. President, a task from which we are not at liberty to abstain.

I thank you.