



MAURITIUS

STATEMENT

by

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Check Against Delivery

Thank You Messrs Co- Chairpersons

We agreed to meet this year to reflect on the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the MDGs as well as the related outcomes of other global conferences and meetings. My delegation notes with satisfaction that after long and protracted negotiations, Members of the UN have been able to achieve broad base consensus not only on the review of the Millennium Declaration but also on wide ranging reforms of the UN to make it more adapted to face present and future challenges.

I would like to express my delegation's profound appreciation to H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, a distinguished son of Africa, for his outstanding and central role he has played in finalizing the Outcome Document which my delegation fully supports as a blue print for action.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

The proposals in the Outcome Document lay the foundation for creating a supportive and enabling international environment for social and economic development in our countries, notably through an increase in ODA and the establishment of time tables for achievement of 0.7% of GNP for ODA by 2015 together with the initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and its impact.

My delegation commends the G8 for spearheading the need for Africa to have access to additional resources. The specific recommendations with respect to Africa in the Outcome Document, if properly implemented, will mean faster progress by Africa towards meeting the MDGs.

My delegation also welcomes the recent proposals of the Group of Eight (08) that has now led to the cancellation of 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries. As it is an undoubted fact that debt sustainability is crucial for the achievement of national economic development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, there is also an urgent need for the Bretton Woods Institutions to develop debt sustainability framework for low-income countries as well as middle income countries.

I am pleased to note that the specific measures to address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States have been taken on board in the Outcome Document and the engagement taken to promote greater international cooperation and partnership for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

While these are all very welcome proposals, my delegation believes that much more will have to be done if we want to sustain our development. That is why I believe emphasis should be placed on promoting trade as an engine for

growth and development My delegation wishes to underscore the need for increased opportunities and integration of developing countries, particularly small island developing states, in the global market system. The need for a fair international environment that maximizes development gains of developing countries in the context of trade liberalization cannot be overemphasized. Yet, recent developments have been particularly hostile to developing countries.

In fact, some of our countries, including my own, are facing not only a sharp erosion of traditional and historical preferences based on supply arrangements with our colonial powers, but also fierce competition and new barriers to trade our products. At the same time, we are being asked to liberalise our markets to foreign companies.

Should this trend go unchecked, a large number of developing countries and a number of the middle income countries would face serious difficulties. It is extremely important to allow the developing countries, including the most vulnerable ones, to trade on a fair level playing field.

Yesterday, President G.W. Bush made a call for successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round so as to promote prosperity and opportunity for all nations. We fully support his call.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

My delegation is also pleased with the emphasis placed on environment sustainability and on the urgent necessity to undertake global action to mitigate the effects of climate change. We wish to reiterate the call for urgent action to arrest the emission of CFC gases which experts say have already reached dangerous levels. While we welcome the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, we believe that it is imperative that all countries subscribe to it as soon as possible. What is required now is for us to develop a more inclusive international framework on Climate Change beyond the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. Climate change is no longer a distant possibility – it is happening and it is happening now – and unfortunately it is the countries which are least responsible for emitting these gases which are the ones suffering the most.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

Recent natural disasters such as the 26th December Tsunami and the Hurricane Katrina triggered unprecedented wave of solidarity around the world. My government expresses its sympathy and solidarity with all the countries that suffered losses from these disasters.

But we must learn from these lessons. It is of paramount importance to invest in disaster risk reduction and my delegation strongly believes that

adequate funding must be provided in this area in order to enable the most vulnerable be better prepared and build resilience against natural disasters.

In the same vein, we welcome efforts by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to set up a global network of early warning systems across the world.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

My delegation strongly supports the recommendation of the Outcome Document concerning terrorism, in particular, the recommendation to reach an agreement on a comprehensive international convention on terrorism. It is also important to address the root causes of terrorism.

Mauritius has always been supportive of all initiatives designed to combat terrorism. I am pleased here to add that just yesterday Mauritius has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Mauritius equally endorses the principle of "Responsibility to Protect" as a norm of collective action in cases of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

The Peacebuilding Commission will be an important interface between the Security Council responsible for conflict prevention and management and the ECOSOC responsible for post conflict reconstruction and development. Mauritius believes that the composition of the Peace Building Commission should be open enough to enable the participation of any country which can contribute effectively to it.

We support the reform of a Human Rights Council to promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The proposed Human Rights Council should serve as a forum for constructive engagement on human rights and enhance the promotion of the highest standards of human rights through peer reviews and exchange of good practices.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

This session of the Assembly offers a unique opportunity for substantial reform of the UN system in its entirety. It is our hope that as we undertake these wide ranging reforms, a solution could be also found on the issue of the Security Council. My delegation considers that it is imperative that in an expanded Security Council, Africa should find its rightful place with representation both in the permanent and the non-permanent category and that India, the world's

largest democracy and also a developing country should serve as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

We view the reform process from the imperatives of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN. As they aim at promoting transparency and accountability as principles of good governance at national and international levels, so must the UN internalize and apply these core principles within the Secretariat.

Messrs Co-Chairpersons,

Let me conclude by reiterating Mauritius' commitment to the principles the United Nations which represents the highest level of multilateralism where all States, big or small, can have their voices heard.

This system of multilateralism has evolved on the twin pillars of a body of most up to date international law, corpus of norms and standards governing international relations and a framework of commonly shared values.

It is incumbent on us, Leaders of the World, to enhance the image of the United Nations and endow it to face the myriad of challenges we face in a spirit of fairness, justice, interdependence with a common objective of the good of humanity. Let this be our commitment and legacy to future generations.

Thank you.