



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

771 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017

**ADDRESS BY**

**HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH  
MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH  
SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**AT THE 69<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014**

*Theme:*

***“DELIVERING ON AND IMPLEMENTING A TRANSFORMATIVE  
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”***

***Please check against delivery***

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Your Excellencies,

Allow me to join earlier speakers in offering my congratulations to His Excellency Sam Kutesa, on his election as President of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

My gratitude to our outgoing President, His Excellency John Ashe, for his excellent work over the past year, especially his contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

My profound appreciation to the many UN officials, peacekeepers and volunteers in the field who often work under difficult circumstances and put their lives at risk.

I would also like to offer my tribute to the Secretary-General and his officials for tirelessly promoting the cause of this world body especially on urgent matters affecting the livelihoods and security of our people.

My thanks to him for his personal support and participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit in Brunei Darussalam last year.

Mr President,

Today is a special occasion for me personally and for Brunei Darussalam as a nation.

It marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our membership to this esteemed Organisation.

Looking back, we were ideologically divided.

Now, we are linked by globalisation and interdependence, in search of a united approach to address the many challenges faced by the human race.

As we confront old and new problems, I believe the UN is best placed to address them collectively.

This is its strength and today it is evident as we strive to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. President,

We are fast approaching the targeted timeline of the MDGs.

And we in Brunei Darussalam are pleased to see concerted global commitment and consensus to eradicate extreme poverty and further promote peace and sustainable development.

For some time now, Brunei Darussalam has been actively contributing to regional and international efforts in training and capacity building such as through the “Initiative for ASEAN Integration” and an “English Enrichment Programme for ASEAN” in collaboration with the United States.

Similar undertakings have been carried out through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

The work of the UN and the relevant stakeholders in leading the way forward beyond 2015 is indeed laudable.

I am encouraged that we have accomplished a great deal in the current initiative.

We have also learned many valuable lessons.

These have provided us with an excellent basis for our journey over the coming decades.

It is re-assuring to know that extensive discussions and wide ranging consultations have been conducted in shaping a universal framework for delivering and implementing a transformative post-2015 development agenda.

I, therefore, welcome the future direction that emphasises the importance of human development, one which is inclusive, people-centred and sustainable.

These elements are also integral to Brunei Darussalam’s National Vision 2035 which is dedicated to improving the welfare of our people and attaining a high quality of life.

I am also pleased that there is unanimous conviction on the importance of protecting the environment.

In this regard, I much value the convening of the UN Climate Summit in galvanising support to address the impact of climate change and in ensuring a dynamic and transformative post-2015 development agenda.

However, for the present and more so in the coming decades, I see there will be many challenges in the path to fully realise the noble objective of this historic endeavour.

This is because the international and regional situation continues to be threatened by instability, injustices, social and economic inequalities and increasingly frequent occurrences of natural disasters.

Whilst there is relative peace and stability in the world, developments over the past year have reminded us how complex security issues, turmoil and instability arising from human activities can hinder progress for long-term development.

We are gravely concerned with security developments in many parts of the world where further escalation of conflicts can weaken the international community's resolve and ability to achieve our world-wide initiatives.

Brunei Darussalam, for its part, has participated in UN peacekeeping, specifically UNIFIL, and other international peace monitoring missions in the southern Philippines.

We remain committed to such endeavours.

The overall outlook is further complicated by challenges that are global in nature such as the impact of climate change, extremism and terrorism as well as the serious repercussions of pandemic diseases.

Brunei Darussalam stands united with the international community in combatting terrorism in all its forms and rejects extremism.

We support all regional and international efforts in countering terrorism.

And we will continue to participate in global initiatives such as inter-faith dialogues and dialogues amongst civilisations to promote understanding, tolerance and respect amongst world communities.

Mr President,

I call upon all nations to take concerted action in resolving the wide-ranging problems further aggravated by the rapid pace of globalisation and inter-connectedness.

In securing the positive aspects of globalisation, it requires our community of nations to work closely together.

We must renew our approach, governance and strengthen cooperation especially in resolving new issues, which require collective global action and unity of purpose.

I wish to emphasise on the need to work in a comprehensive manner, especially in guaranteeing peace and security.

The quality of life of our people can only be further enhanced through inclusive economic development as well as social progress.

With reckless human activities continuing unabated, the repercussions of environmental degradation would surely impact negatively on overall development.

These are areas which demand renewed commitment, partnership and creativity within our global community.

I also would like to underscore the importance of strengthening our capabilities in disaster management.

This is owing to the frequent recurrence and greater intensity of natural disasters in recent years.

They have caused destruction and hardship to many people.

Last year, Brunei Darussalam hosted a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise amongst military personnel from big and small nations in the Asia Pacific.

The first such event of its kind under the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus process.

I was most inspired to witness the close cooperation and unity shown by the participants of different backgrounds in striving to save lives.

Such regional effort is just a modest step.

More importantly, the fundamental principle of mutual respect, trust and confidence, putting aside differences, upholding the rule of law and justice and promoting cooperation should serve as the basis in resolving conflicts to enable us to enjoy continued peace and stability.

In the same spirit, it is also imperative that we are resolute in overcoming our differences and move forward in further opening up global trade.

Mr. President,

I wish to re-emphasise that our efforts in realising the MDGs would be in vain if, at the same time, we disregard our commitments to pursue peaceful means of settling disputes as enshrined in the Charter of the UN.

The potential escalation of disputes and threats to international peace and security have resulted in appalling human tragedies such as the downing of flight MH 17 and the current dire situation in Gaza.

Although prospects of all out war seem remote nowadays, instances of worsening situations, skirmishes and brinkmanship have shown us too well how the threat of conflict and violence remains an obstacle to our long-term aspirations for a better world.

On Palestine, freedom and justice is long overdue.

The endless suffering experienced by our Palestinian brothers and sisters is a stark example of how little our development goals mean if there is no peace and stability.

They must be granted their basic rights to live in dignity and enjoy economic development.

We are encouraged by the observance of the current ceasefire by the parties involved.

I much appreciate the efforts of many countries, which have made this possible.

Mr. President,

Looking to the future, I remain hopeful.

I still firmly believe that we need this Organisation to ensure that the next generation will enjoy a secure and prosperous livelihood.

I am confident that the UN will continue to be a source of hope.

So, it is also important that all states do everything they can to make positive contributions to this Organisation.

What we decide and do today will determine the future for generations to come.

Therefore, let us continue to work together so that they inherit a legacy of lasting peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

Thank you.