



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

Statement
By the
Head of Delegation

His Excellency the Honourable Ludwig Scotty MP
President of Republic of Nauru

At The

GENERAL DEBATE of the
United Nations General Assembly

Sunday, 18 September 2005

New York



Republic of Nauru

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY HON. LUDWIG SCOTTY MP
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU

GENERAL DEBATE

OF THE

60TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. President,

The Outcome document serves as a map by which we navigate in seeking to improve the lives of the many peoples of the world; it may be imperfect but it is our task as leaders, to provide a vision of a better world, and to lead our people towards the achievement of that vision. The Outcome document spells out this vision, and we should use it as much as one uses a map, when navigating the destiny of our respective nations.

In this respect, Nauru looks to the United Nations as the global leader in reaching this vision of a better world. A world in which human rights are collectively recognized and defended, terrorism of any form is eliminated, peace and security is promoted and maintained, and poverty is eradicated.

We therefore applaud the effort to strengthen the work of the United Nations through management reform. This should improve the delivery of the global services that this organization is expected to provide.

But equally important is the need to reform the Security Council, to recognize that international developments since the establishment of this august body many decades ago now demand a more democratic representation of the global family in an expanded Security Council. The earlier these reforms are implemented, the earlier that the work of the United Nations can be further improved, with commensurate benefit to the people whose interests we all serve.

Mr. President,

Nauru has the unenviable position of having lost its earlier status as a donor country, with much of our wealth lost as a result of mismanagement and, in particular, corrupt leadership. We therefore speak with some experience when we note with encouragement the decision by the United Nations to implement management and structural reforms that improve, amongst other things, transparency and accountability, for the greater good of member countries and the peoples we represent.

Nauru itself is undertaking significant economic and political reforms as we recommence the nation-building process. This includes the design of a national development strategy that has just concluded the public consultative phase, and which will be presented to the donor community in November. We are hopeful that the international community can participate, not by driving the development agenda for the people of Nauru, but by accepting the vision of our people as that to be implemented by Nauru with the support of our development partners. The development agenda for developing countries, particularly those with fragile and vulnerable economies, must be designed by those whose lives that agenda will impact; not by external parties who have a different agenda.

We believe that the thorough consultative process through which the national development strategy is being designed, is an exercise in democracy itself. The views expressed by government and non-government agencies, community, faith and other leaders, is testament to the strength of democracy in Nauru. To turn a blind eye to this process by driving a development agenda not envisioned by the people is not only dangerous to the development needs of the people it should serve, but a threat to democracy itself.

Mr. President,

We are hopeful that the United Nations itself will have a leading role in assisting the rebuilding of Nauru and in achieving the MDGs by 2015, and we re-iterate our call for a United Nations presence in Nauru for this purpose.

Nauru also calls upon the developed world to match their rhetoric with action when it comes to assisting the development needs of the developing world, be that through development financing and/or debt relief. It is simply not good enough to be targeting achievement of MDGs by 2015 without availing the resources to fund that effort. The developed world have an obligation to share their resources with the developing world by ensuring they meet their own target of ODA expenditure of 0.07% of GDP, and to achieve that promptly if the developing world is to achieve its MDGs within ten years.

Mr. President,

The decision to not consider the question of the people of Taiwan is a gross dereliction of duty. There are 23 million people on Taiwan that are being denied the right to be recognized and protected by this very organization.

The United Nations has a role in assisting and facilitating constructive dialogue to ensure a future of peace for the people of Taiwan. Peace and security in the Taiwan straits is peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

I am hopeful that member states will recognize and accept the appeal by the good people of Taiwan in this 60th General Assembly.

Thank you.