

**A Synopsis of the 67<sup>th</sup> United Nations General  
Assembly General Debate**

*On The Statements Delivered By Heads Of Delegation For Small Island  
Developing States (SIDS)*

New York, 25-29 September and 1 October, 2012

Compiled by UN-OHRLLS

15<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

## Summary

“Resolving international disputes by peaceful means” was the overarching theme of the 67th session for this year’s General Assembly which saw 195 dignitaries address the plenary – including the Holy Sea and European Council - 37\* were heads of delegation for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Of the 37 heads of delegation for SIDS, 10 were heads of state, 11 heads of government and 16 were others including Ministers and Permanent Representatives.

There were certainly several themes that were to a large extent unanimous across the SIDS regions as evidenced from the statements delivered during the General Debate. These issues ranged from human rights and the rule of law, calls for an independent Palestinian State, the end to the Cuban embargo, the situation in Syria, the participation of Taiwan as a member of the UN system – for instance membership of ICAO and UNFCCC - and renewed calls for international support for Haiti. Furthermore, there was undivided condemnation of the events that led to the death of US Ambassador Stevens and his colleagues in Benghazi, Libya. Also high on the agenda and indeed across the board, were issues pertaining to climate change, including the need to see success at COP18 in Doha. Moreover, Security Council reform featured prominently, including calls to expand the membership of the council (both permanent and non-permanent) leading it to be more representative and effective. In this light, St. Lucia and Cape Verde stated the need for Africa to have a permanent seat in the council, while Guyana stated the need for developing countries to be better represented. Interestingly, Grenada expressed that Security Council reform should include small island developing States (SIDS); although it was not clear whether this should be taken to mean that SIDS ought to be represented within the Council, or rather that the reform process itself should include the participation of SIDS. Also across the board, was the need for continued progress in meeting the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and how this relates to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post 2015 development agenda.

The countries of the Caribbean region concentrated on issues pertaining for instance to the international financial crisis and its challenges with relation to SIDS and indeed highly indebted middle income countries of which several are located in the region. Also of emphasis by leaders of the region was their opposition to the use of indices such as GDP/capita as a threshold by which countries are determined access to concessionary loans by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and that they are of the view that a new threshold should be established. The failure of an agreement on the proposed Arms Trade Treaty also featured predominantly in the statements from the region; with the view that such a treaty would go a long ways to combating the high number of firearms being used in violent crimes in the Caribbean, (according to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 70% of all homicides in the region are carried out with firearms) particularly in relation to drugs trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms. Also high on the agenda, was the urgent need to combat Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the region and the need to improve access to healthcare services. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, along with Antigua and Barbuda raised their wish to see reparations and apologies being issued by former slave states in relation to the African slave trade.

The Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIMS) region echoed many of those themes that were common across the other SIDS regions. On the other hand, there were also distinctive recommendations such as the proposal by Seychelles that SIDS should be considered as offering unique opportunities for testing innovative policies and technologies that could then be applied at the global scale; here renewable energy was advanced as one such undertaking. Mauritius stated the need to revitalize ECOSOC while also emphasising the importance of strengthening the SIDS-Unit in DESA to enable it to provide coordinated support for SIDS. Moreover, combating maritime piracy, the trafficking and sale of arms and drugs were flagged as issues that required urgent attention in the region.

While the Pacific (P) SIDS raised issues common with the other SIDS regions, they also concentrated on the matters pertaining to oceans and fisheries such as the establishment of marine protected areas and fisheries management along with the exploitation of non-living marine resources. Renewable energy was moreover, an important facet in statements by PSIDS leaders as part of the overall fight against climate change and the acquisition of sustainable energy. Of note, were the recognition by Tonga and Nauru of the importance of the link between climate change and security; here Nauru raised the need for the appointment of a special representative on climate change and security to begin analysing the security threats from climate change. SDGs were no doubt of relevance across the regions, while of note was the statement by Solomon Islands that “the SDGs must be economically rationalized, rural focused, community based and time bound.” Following on from this,

was linkage of the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014 with the post 2015 development agenda as encapsulated by the statement from Samoa whereby the “important priorities that the 2014 SIDS Meeting identifies in its outcomes, are integrated into global development frameworks of post 2015.” Only two SIDS countries alluded to the establishment of an official SIDS category; Nauru and Tuvalu, here, the argument was put forward most succinctly by Tuvalu. Several PSIDS leaders made reference to the issue of the self-determination of the peoples of New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

\*Note; The Republic of Guinea-Bissau was not represented at the 67<sup>th</sup> General Debate.

### **Some Salient Points raised during the General Debate:**

*Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2012*

#### **Address by His Excellency Danilo Medina Sánchez, President of the Dominican Republic**

- Stressed that “we the developing countries did not cause the financial crisis.”
- Stated that “...experience has shown that improving the quality of life and reducing poverty and social exclusion can help stimulate healthy economic growth.”
- Elaborated that “for many years development of countries has been assessed by the international financial entities using as indicators some measure of income or national production expressed in per capita terms in order to determine the material well-being of our peoples. Our country . . . based on these types of measurements has been classified as a middle-high income country, and yet more than one third of our citizens still live in poverty.”
- Questioned “How can we exclude countries such as my own from development aid?”
- Stated that “the growth of GDP does not express shortage or the despair [of my countrymen].”
- Emphasised that “a country should not stop receiving development aid simply because the national average income has gone beyond a certain arbitrarily defined threshold.”
- “[...] call[ed] on international financial organisations to welcome enthusiastically our efforts to break the vicious cycle of poverty and social exclusion as a basis for development.”

#### **Address by His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

- Referred to their Presidential elections in March and April 2012 (two rounds) and stated that “our People elected as the 3rd President of the Republic, Major-General Taur Matan Ruak. In May, the “10th Anniversary of the Restoration of our Independence [was celebrated].”
- Regarding peacekeeping operations in the country, stated that “UNMIT (United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste) and ISF (International Stabilization Force) will withdraw by the end of the present year. This will mark the end of peacekeeping operations in Timor Leste.”
- Announced that, “on 20 May 2013, the Timorese State will be honouring, with the highest insignia of Timor- Leste, all countries that have taken part in missions in Timor-Leste, starting with the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.”
- In regard to the MDGs, stated that “by 2015, Timor-Leste will not meet the Millennium Development Goals. The current major challenge for Timor-Leste is the fight against poverty . . .”
- Praised the SG’s creation of “a High Level Panel to help establish new guidelines for beyond 2015” and confessed “that [they] were proud to see a Timorese woman, [their] Minister of Finance, Emflia Pires, been deservingly chosen as a Panel member.”

**Address by His Excellency Christopher Jorebon Loeak, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

- In relation to the MDGs: “the Marshall Islands is now firmly committed to making stronger progress, especially in regards to achieving full access to adequate education, . . . decent employment and . . . a sustainable environment.”
- Informed that the next leaders summit of the Pacific Islands Forum, “will be held next year in the Marshall Islands,” and “will reveal firm and dramatic progress . . . towards basic social and environment goals, but also how a very real expansion of public-private partnership will be jump-started in the Pacific.”
- Stated that “[e]arlier this month, the Special Rapporteur on toxic waste, Mr. Callin Georgescu, presented his report to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, regarding the nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands. The Special Rapporteur has presented significant findings – that the pain, mistrust, progress and failures of the Marshallese people over decades have a human rights dimension – and that the international community must respond with more than silence. The Marshallese people have paid too heavy a price for the only instance in which the United Nations explicitly authorized the use of nuclear weapons.”
- Noted that “[t]he Parties to the Nauru Agreement have become a watershed political movement – recently achieving certification of a sustainable fishery by the Marine Stewardship Council – perhaps the largest such fishery in the world”.
- On achieving ‘carbon neutrality’, stated that “we have a - UNFCCC target – to cut our own emissions, boost our efficiency and pursue new technology such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion . . .”
- The large scale – up to \$100 billion dollars a year - of the future Green Climate Fund, [can often over-look] the Marshall Islands [which] is at present heavily reliant on international assistance, and we have little other means to provide for adaptation.
- [...] [U]rge[d] other nations to advance the meaningful participation of Taiwan within the UN system and international community. Building on the successful efforts of the World Health Assembly, Taiwan's participation as an observer should be created within the UNFCCC and ICAO.”

**Address by His Excellency Sprent Arumogo Dabwido, President of the Republic of Nauru**

- Elaborated that “Nauru has adopted an ambitious programme to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2015, we think we can achieve it, but we will need climate finance from international sources to do it.”
- Emphasised that “the UN system must begin analysing and addressing the security implications of climate change.”
- Informed that “Pacific SIDS have called for the appointment of a special representative on climate change and security supported by adequate resources to begin analysing the security threats from climate change and to work with interested member states to build their resilience.”
- Notified that “many countries, including my own are not on track to meet the MDG’s . . . at the same time the flow of ODA from some channels has diminished further jeopardizing our ability to achieve our MDGs.”
- Opined that “Rio+20 captured the Pacific SIDS vision of a blue economy. If fully implemented the new provisions could help turn the steep decline in fish stocks.”
- Elaborated that “the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014 will provide an opportunity for the international community to make good on the promises of the Barbados

Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation by setting concrete goals and mobilizing real resources.”

- Informed that “[there] should be the creation of a formal SIDS category at the UN.”

*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2012*

**Address by His Excellency Anote Tong, President, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati**

- Stated that “[they] are grateful that the General Assembly agrees that climate change is a matter warranting the attention of the Security Council” and “[...] applaud[ed] the commitment of our Secretary-General to this particular security threat . . .”
- Urged “development partners to provide the appropriate level of resources and technology to enable us to deal with the current impacts of climate change and sea level rise . . .”
- Regarding the MDGs, stated that “we are off-track . . . we, in the most vulnerable countries, continue to spend a disproportionate level of our limited resources fighting the onslaught of the rising seas and storm surges on our homes, livelihoods and public infrastructure . . .”
- Emphasised that “we can achieve sustainable development through utilising the available resources of our vast Exclusive Economic Zone. We believe that through this we can reduce our reliance on development assistance . . .”
- Referring to fisheries, stated that “it [provides] between 40 and 50 per cent of our revenue . . . seabed mining is another potential source of revenue [however] we are mindful of the need to take a precautionary approach towards this particular activity . . .”
- On biodiversity and oceans, made mention of “the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), one of the world's largest marine protected areas.” During the PIF meeting in the Cook Islands, “the United States and Kiribati announced plans to collaborate in building links between our adjoining marine parks in the Phoenix Islands, under the umbrella of the Phoenix Ocean Arc. This effort is our joint contribution to the Pacific Oceanscape Framework . . .”
- Welcomed the inclusion of Taiwan in international processes of the World Health Assembly and hoped that “similar understanding will prevail in respect of other international institutions and processes where Taiwan can participate and contribute meaningfully for the good of humanity.”

**Address by His Excellency Michel Joseph Martelly, President of the Republic of Haiti**

- Supported the peaceful settlement to international disputes, but emphatically stated that “it may be better to try to prevent them”.
- Indicated that gender equality, democracy, equality under the law, and respect for the environment, inter alia, were parameters preventing uncontrolled migration, climate change, religious wars, and ethnic conflicts.
- On the eve of Haiti’s presidency of CARICOM, he expressed faith that things would change given the entwined destinies of all countries. “The great ones can only remain so” if they supported the transformation of the international community without exclusion or exclusivity. Speaking of the international community, he stated “Every nation looks after its own interests, [although] the UN gave hope that things could be different. “We cannot let these hopes die,” he stressed.
- Reiterated to the Assembly the need to “stop our fights” and that “Our respective countries have chosen us”, to create a world of peace.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of September, 2012

**Address by H.E. Dr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cape Verde**

- Expressed that he was “proud of the trajectory followed by [his] country since independence . . . [whereby] per capita GDP was 190 USD and today it has increased to 3295 USD. Several social indicators accompanied this positive evolution and, today we are in a position to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.”
- Acknowledged that despite having graduated to a medium-income economy “based on services, which in 2010 accounted for 80% of the GDP, a market with exiguous dimensions and an agriculture that fights against desertification and lack of rain, we cannot ignore the great vulnerabilities that we face. . .”
- Expressed “profound concern regarding the current and exceptional economic and financial crisis worldwide, which continues to penalize . . . Governments and defenceless populations of the African Continent.”
- Emphasised that “Africa needs . . . to strengthen the ties between the United Nations and the African Union, a true partnership for development.”
- Appealed, “for decisions on concrete measures that will result in the decision taken within the framework of this Organization, in terms of development such as those related to the cancelling of the external debt of developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States, because we are certain that such a decision would represent a stimulus for all these countries,
- Expressed the view that “Cape Verde supports the position taken by the African Union [recommending] reform of the Security Council, with the aim to correct the unjust situation with the African Continent, without the right yet, of at least a Permanent seat in the . . . Council despite the fact that it meets all the requirements for such.”

**Address by H.E. Ms. Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica**

- Emphasised that “a significant proportion of the world's poorest citizens live in Middle Income Countries [including] large developing economies and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) [which] are hampered by the volatility of energy and food prices, decreases in export commodity prices, and weak capital inflows.”
- Commended UNCTAD on “the work which it has done over the last forty-eight years to advance the trade and development agenda and to assist developing countries.”
- In reference to human trafficking, called “on the international community to take bold actions to address this scourge.” [Looked] forward to continued collaboration with UN Women and the international community to help break this cycle of exploitation and insecurity.”
- Commended the United Nations and the international community [on efforts] made in the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- Stated that “We need to reinvigorate Millennium Development Goal 8 - the Global Partnership for Development.”
- Urged “that middle income countries not be pushed to the margins of the development agenda, nor be put on the fringe of the development assistance provided by the international community.”
- Supportive of “the proposals put forward by ECLAC for an alternative but complementary approach to the criterion of per capita income for the allocation of financing for development.”
- Called for increased partnership . . . to achieve a comprehensive and robust Arms Trade Treaty.
- Urged the “leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to resume negotiations . . . based on the two-state solution and relevant United Nations resolutions. “

- In reference to Haiti, expressed concern “that only a fraction of the pledges have been disbursed and yet the humanitarian situation in Haiti is perilous.”
- Stated that “the long-standing trade and economic embargo against Cuba, has had severe negative effects on its growth and development. Jamaica reiterates its call for an end to the embargo against Cuba . . .”

**Address by H.E. Mr. Donald Rabindranauth Ramotar, President of Guyana**

- In reference to building a resilient economy, stated that “Over the past six years, we have achieved an economic growth rate of approximately five percent per annum [where] more than thirty per cent (30 %) of our budget is dedicated to Education, Health, Housing, Water and Social Programmes to help the most vulnerable.
- In regards to education, stated that “Guyana has achieved universal primary education and we have come a long way towards attaining universal secondary education . . . I am therefore honoured to join the Secretary General to promote his initiative on education.”

Emphasised that Guyana advocates for:

1. reform of the graduation policies and aid allocation criteria of the International Financial Institutions to take account of the structural vulnerability and level of economic resilience of small states;
  2. measures to ease the debt burden;
  3. renewed access to concessionary financing for highly indebted Middle Income Countries: as well as the strengthening of financial regulations.
- In relation to drug trafficking, stated that “Guyana is ready to cooperate fully with the international community to bring the criminals to justice and free our people from the multiple dangers that drug trafficking creates.
  - In reference to climate change, expressed the view that “the climate crisis falls far short of what is required both in terms of scale and in urgency. The projected level of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is much too low.”
  - The country is pursuing a “Low Carbon Development Strategy . . . to assure economic growth, social progress and environmental sustainability for present and future generations . . .”
  - Referencing the Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, called “for an acceleration of the twin-track approach to enhance direct action against hunger for the most vulnerable, and for promoting medium to long term sustainability in agriculture and rural development.”
  - Emphasised that Guyana recognizes the “State of Palestine based on its 1967 borders and supports her aspirations to full membership of the United Nations.”
  - Expressed Guyana’s firm opposition “to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed against its sister Caribbean State of Cuba. We call for an immediate end to this policy.”
  - In reference to the Security Council, expressed “. . . Guyana's steadfast support for early reform of the Council through an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories with particular regard to the representation of developing countries.

**Address by H.E. Mr. Ikililou Dhoinine, President of the Comoros**

- Made reference to Syria which was “suffering a great tragedy.” Emphasised the importance of the Palestinian cause in which Comoros reiterated its “full support to the Palestinian people,” and associated itself with the solution of a Palestinian State living side by side in peace with Israel.

- Comoros committed itself to the pursuit of democracy in which the President would “leave no stone unturned” in his promotion of democracy and good governance. Here reference was made to a new anti-corruption law.
- In light of the financial crisis, emphasised the urgent need for in-depth reform of international financial institutions. Another major concern was climate change and disproportionate effects on SIDS.
- Addressed several important issues at the international level, including making operational the Copenhagen Climate Fund. Commitments to States of the global South must also be honoured, and countries must abide by commitments in emission reductions. Also, no effort should be spared in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- Called on France to engage in “candid and sincere dialogue” on the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte whereby the fact that the island remained under French administration constituted a threat to the peace and stability of the three other Comorian Islands.

**H.E. Mr. Danny Faure, Vice-President of Seychelles**

- Expressed the view that “in the Indian Ocean, we are particularly concerned with two issues that challenge the proper application of the rule of law . . . the continued challenge of maritime piracy, and the resolution of the political crisis in Madagascar.”
- Emphasised that “Seychelles is proposing that SIDS be considered as offering unique opportunities for testing innovative policies and technologies that can benefit all humanity.”
- Informed that “the Global Island Partnership, co-chaired by Seychelles, Palau and Grenada have proposed consideration of debt cancellation for SIDS to better allow preparation for climate change adaptation.”
- Opined that “developing pilot projects in SIDS . . . can create potentially 100% renewable energy based economies that can then be replicated at a larger scale”.

**Address by His Excellency Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda**

- Informed that “in 2011, we celebrated the International Year for Peoples of African Descent [and] I am reiterating a call I made in these hallowed halls in 2011 for former slave states to begin the reconciliation process by issuing formal apologies for the crimes committed by the nations or their citizens over the four hundred years of the African slave trade.” Further on this issue, the Minister called “on former slave states to back up their apologies with new commitments to the economic development of these nations that have suffered from this human tragedy.
- Stated that “crime and violence fuelled by the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons is jeopardizing our major industries such [including] tourism.” Also informed that while none of the CARICOM countries manufacture weapons, there is an estimated “1.6 million illegal firearms in the region.” In this light the Minister expressed sadness “that there was no agreement on a text for the just concluded legally binding Arms Trade Treaty.”
- Expressed condemnation of “the brutal killing of the US Ambassador to Libya and the destruction of the US embassy in Libya.”
- Articulated his country’s concern “by the lack of progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”.
- Conveyed that at the recent Summit of AOSIS, a strong message was sent “to the international community on the need for bold and ambitious actions.”

- On climate change, the Minister stressed that “the threat is real, our sea-levels are rising, there is coral bleaching beyond the depths of our shores, and hurricanes are becoming more recurrent and severe.” In this light the Minister stated that “the UNFCCC needs to take concrete steps in order to protect Small Island Developing States and other exposed countries . . .”
- While acknowledging a collective responsibility to mitigate climate change, and a positive outcome to climate change negotiations in Doha, the Minister emphasised that “developed countries should accept their responsibilities as the leading contributor in emitting extremely high levels of greenhouse gases.”
- Conveyed his government’s siding with AOSIS in “calling on the UN General Assembly to designate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States . . .”
- Stressed “the need for adequate funding and continued implementation of the UN Mission in Haiti [and] called on those nations which pledged assistance to Haiti, to honour their commitments.”
- In reference to his country’s economy, the Minister stated that “we need greater cooperation, flexibility and inclusion from our developed partners.” In this light, the Minister expressed that “GDP can no longer be the criterion used when accessing concessionary financing and other international financial reliefs; instead, mechanisms should be put in place that take into consideration a host of other elements including fragility of economies.”
- Called upon OECD countries “to guarantee that their response approach to international tax matters involves improved international cooperation on tax issues through comprehensive and supportive frameworks that ensure the involvement and equal treatment of small jurisdictions like Antigua and Barbuda without the nuances of inappropriate branding as tax havens.”
- Informed that his country had “entered into the international gaming sector abiding by all prescribed international standards” whereby the US deemed this in contravention of its domestic laws. After seeking international redress through the WTO, the Minister stated that “we were triumphant and the US was ordered to compensate Antigua and Barbuda.” He called “on the [US] government to work with us to quickly resolve this matter . . .”
- Called on the US “to immediately and unconditionally lift its economic blockade against the people of Cuba.”
- Informed of commitments “by all CARICOM countries to work tirelessly in the realization . . . of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.”
- Articulated the many challenges Antigua and Barbuda faces in the prevention, care and treatment of Non Communicable Diseases or NCDs. Part of the solution has been the establishment of the NCD Commission, drafted legislation, engagement with civil society and plans for the development of a Cancer Treatment Center.
- Called on all nations to cease the supply of arms to both sides in the [Syrian] conflict.

**H.E. Mr. Mohamed Waheed, President the Republic of the Maldives**

- Applauded Tunisia and Egypt “for holding their first post-transition elections in a free and fair manner.”
- Welcomed the “latest findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation in Syria [and urged] the Syrian security forces and anti-government armed groups to immediately cease all hostilities. . .”
- Strongly condemned the recent “anti-Islamic video demeaning our Prophet Muhammad.”
- Condemned the “attack on the [US] Consulate in Benghazi, which took the life of the [US] Ambassador to Libya.”

- Strongly called on “all Member States to support the true aspirations of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination in recognition of a Palestinian State . . .”
- Articulated that “the 2015 development agenda should be one that recognises the particular characteristics and needs of small states.”
- Conveyed that “climate change remains the most important and complex developmental challenge that small states face.” The President listed threats including sea-level rise, ocean acidification, changes in average temperature and variability in precipitation that his country faces. He further highlighted the serious problem of coastal erosion “that is affecting more than 113 islands [and that] the Government now spends more than 27 per cent of our national budget on building our resilience to combat the effects of climate change.”
- The President reiterated his country’s “call for a binding agreement to reduce global carbon emissions [arguing that] our contribution to global emissions is at 0.003 per cent. Yet, we are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.”
- The President outlined targets his country was taking to address climate change including becoming one of the first countries to eradicate CFCs and HCFCs while also scaling up renewable energy, envisaging a total of 20 islands switching to renewable energy sources by next year.
- In reference to national politics, the President elaborated on the situation whereby “the multi-party democracy in the Maldives, so far, has been a deeply divisive one. It is also a polarizing one that is tearing apart families and the fabric of a small homogenous society.” At a time of national “breakdowns”, the President emphasised that “this is the time when the larger states should help the smaller states in the international system.” He further went on to elaborate that the “international community should not take punitive actions against any sovereign State, unless there is verified and blatant abuse of human rights.”
- The President elaborated that “international cooperation . . . should promote positive change in emerging democracies [whereby] international organisations such as the [UN] can play pivotal roles in strengthening democratic institutions [while] the advanced democracies can help small states with technical expertise in consolidating democracy.” He further opined that “it is important to review the current approaches and modalities in extending international cooperation for democracy promotion.”

**H.E. Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

- Honoured to represent a modern state “responsive to its international responsibilities” [and] committed to values in various areas including “education, health, vocational training, economic reform and advancement of women.”
- Informed that “H.M. King Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa . . . proposed the creation of an Arab court of human rights [endorsed by the Arab League] and [modelled after] the Inter-America Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and People’s Rights.”
- Reported that “last week [the Kingdom of Bahrain] accepted, before the Human Rights Council in Geneva, more than 90% of recommendations made by the Council in the context of the Universal Periodic Review, including considering accession to the Optional Protocol attached to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.”
- Expressed that Bahrain believes in the role of the UN being “indispensable in addressing international and regional problems [and that] our region is in great need of that role given the . . . regrettable developments in Syria.”

- Called upon the international community through the UN to “unify its position so as to put an end to the humanitarian suffering of the Syrian people and to find a political solution to the crisis . . .”
- Emphasised that the Kingdom of Bahrain believes it is imperative to redouble efforts towards . . . the creation of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital . . .”
- Urged the international community “to demand from Israel to halt its settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory and dismantle the settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory . . .”
- Stressed the “necessity of implementing the resolutions of the GA and Security Council . . . to halt the ongoing Israeli violations and aggression . . .”
- Reaffirmed Bahrain’s position of “establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.” Further elaborated that establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone should in no way “preclude the right of all nations to access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes . . .”
- Reaffirmed the necessity of solving the problem of the three United Arab Emirates islands . . . occupied by the Islamic Republic of Iran, either through negotiations or arbitration by the International Court of Justice.”
- Called on the international community to offer support to achieve peace and security in Somalia.
- Condemned in the strongest terms the “shameful film” denigrating the prophet Mohammed [and] the unjustified aggression perpetrated against the diplomatic mission of the [US] in Benghazi that cost the life of Ambassador Christopher Stevens . . .”
- Informed that Bahrain “is among the first to achieve the MDGs . . . before the prescribed time frame . . .”
- Stressed that “the global financial crisis cannot be used as an excuse for renegeing on our financial commitments to those in greatest need.”

**H.E. Mr. Gordon Darcy Lilo, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands**

- On health, reported that “malaria has almost been eradicated from two of nine provinces, infant mortality [has] decreased from 80 to 35 per 1000 live births [while the] maternal mortality rate has decreased from 500 to 200 deaths per 100,000 live births.”
- Expressed gratitude to “our regional neighbours” in regards to restoring law and order through the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).”
- Offered support for “New Caledonia’s aspirations for self-determination [while] also supporting the re-inscription of French Polynesia on the UN decolonization list.”
- On LDC issues, welcomed the work of the GA on “strengthening the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the LDC Group.”
- Under the IPoA, informed that “Solomon Islands is pursuing three high valued national investments. [i] a second international airport is being constructed in the Western Province, [ii] the submarine fiber optic project is expected to come on line by 2014, [iii] two universities are being established, the Solomon Islands National University and the University of the South Pacific Solomon Islands Campus.”
- As party to the Nauru Agreement on Fisheries, informed that “we have closed off pockets of high seas between our [EEZs] in a bid to manage fish stocks [and] have adopted the Vessel Day Scheme [and thus] call on all distant-water-fishing nations to respect this principle position.”

- Acknowledged the need to “accelerate efforts to achieve the MDG targets within the remaining three years [and that] the proposed 2015 development agenda must take into account the shortcomings in the implementation of the MDGs.”
- Stated that “the SDGs must be economically rationalized, rural focused, community based and time bound.” Also expressed pleasure that his country will “be one of the fifty countries that UNDP will consult to develop the post-2015 global development agenda. We request that this consultation process should also mainstream Small Island Development States issues into the 2014 SIDS Global Conference.”
- On the question of Taiwan, stated that “the Solomon Islands continues to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the UN system . . .”
- On the question of Cuba, stated that “we join the international community in calling for the immediate lifting of the US economic and trade embargo against Cuba.”
- With regards to gender equality and empowerment of women, offered thanks to UN Member States in “electing Solomon Islands to the executive board of UN Women [and] welcome the call by the Secretary General to convene the 2015 Global Conference on Women.” Acknowledged Australia’s contribution of \$320 million dollars for regional assistance to support gender programs in the Pacific.

**H.E. Mr. Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia**

- The President stated “the biggest challenge we face today in Micronesia is climate change, not just the projections of future loss and damage, but the dangerous impacts that my people are experiencing now as well. Sadly to date no significant progress has been made on climate change mitigation.”
- Called upon “major emitters to step up their level of commitment under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.”
- Pleased with the “agreement this summer in Rio to begin cooperation on a global phase down of the production and consumption of HFCs.”
- On oceans and the Blue Economy the President referred to “rising tides and temperatures and ocean acidification . . . harmful . . . fishing practices, from pollutants such as mercury and oil, and from other waste from unsustainable human activity.” Emphasised that acts of “illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues [while] urgent actions to reduce by-catch, fish discards, and post-harvest losses must be taken.
- Recognized “that the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources are key elements in achieving sustainable development.”
- Welcomed the decision in Rio to “hold a global conference on SIDS in 2014 [and] fully supports this decision and reiterates its call to hold this conference in one of the Pacific SIDS countries.”

*Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2012*

**H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

- Informed that in the Caribbean, “the global economic and financial meltdown continues to be felt most acutely by the poor, the youth, the elderly and the vulnerable . . . [leading to] a potential “lost decade” of development.”
- Stated that “small, highly-indebted middle-income developing countries, like those in the Caribbean, which are very vulnerable to natural disasters and international economic convulsions; have special concerns which the international community is obliged to address properly in partnership with the people of our region.”

- Pointed out that “the cause of development . . . has suffered from the neglect of the international community in recent, post-crisis years. Within the [UN] system, the current budget for peacekeeping dwarfs the resources allocated to fostering development, even as we recognise that most conflict is rooted in underdevelopment.”
- Emphasised that given the “age-old pledges of developmental assistance [whose] fulfilment has been delayed by States that cite their struggles with the global economic fallout . . . it is painfully apparent that the MDGs will not be met across large swaths of our planet.”
- Expressed support for and as a matter of urgency “a prosperous, safe, independent Palestinian State [existing] alongside a secure state of Israel.”
- Reminded the international community of pledges made to Haiti.
- Reminded that “reparations for the genocide committed against indigenous peoples, and for African slavery must continue to be pursued vigorously on our international agenda.”
- Expressed his country’s “unequivocal . . . rejection of all forms of terrorist activity [and] we support unreservedly the United States’ determination to bring Ambassador Stevens’ killers to justice.”
- Expressed bafflement “at the continued reference to the Republic of Cuba in some quarters as a state sponsor of terrorism. The undisputed evidence is that Cuba neither supports nor harbours terrorists of any type.”
- Stated that “my country and several others in the Caribbean and Central America, bear testimony to Taiwan’s principled conduct [and that] surely, the time has now come [for Taiwan] to be permitted to participate in the work of various agencies [of the UN].”
- Expressed the anger of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines “by the continuing inexcusable failure of the States gathered in this room to move towards a meaningful and legally binding climate change treaty.”
- On the fight against climate change, called on “all nations to join us in this fight, for this is a war that can still be won.”
- Confided that “another existential threat whose solution has fallen victim to UN paralysis is our common pursuit of a global, robust and binding arms trade treaty. In the Caribbean, over 70 per cent of homicides are committed with firearms, a remarkable statistic for a region that produces not one single gun or bullet.”
- Called on the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the GA “to redouble its efforts to negotiate . . . a binding [Arms Trade Treaty] agreement before we reconvene . . . next September”.

**H.E. Mr. Kenny Davis Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia**

- Welcomed a “peaceful resolution to the conflict in Syria [and] continue to support the efforts of the Special Envoy and the Secretary General . . .”
- Condemned “all attempts at disparagement of religious prophets, deities, symbols or practices and appeal for tolerance and understanding.”
- Expressed abhorrence at “the brutal murder of the Ambassador of the [US] in Libya . . .”
- Recognised that turbulence in the Middle East has the undoubted effect of distortion of prices of [oil], harming the interests and development of large and small countries alike.”
- Welcomed the “emerging dialogue between the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan.”

- Supports the call “that Africa needs permanent representation on the Security Council, as supported by the Presidents of Mali and South Africa.”
- Welcomed the “resolution on the longstanding dispute in Sudan, and the achievement of self-determination of the new state of South Sudan . . .”
- Supports “the Government of Jamaica in calls for the recognition of the impacts of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and the need for a frank dialogue on the status of the people of African descent.”
- Reiterated the “conclusion of the Caribbean Community as a whole, most recently in December 2011, that it is time to end the embargo placed against the Republic of Cuba by the United States.”
- Reiterated the need for the UN’s continued support for Haiti.
- Informed that the matter of arms is of great concern and “was raised at the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, in April this year.”
- Placed on record “our continued concern with the practice of deportation of seasoned criminals to our small states, without any regard for the capacity of our internal security arrangements.”
- Stated that if there is a “willingness to support the growth of small islands, then small islands can be successful stories [for instance] consider that our fifteen member Caribbean Community has a combined population of seventeen million and an economy of about 89 billion US dollars. The US territory of Puerto Rico, itself part of a greater Caribbean, has a GDP of about 100 billion dollars. It suggests clearly that if there is support in trade and investment, though we may be small, our economies could grow . . .”
- Stressed that “the Caribbean Community has continuously made the point that many small states are deceptively classed as “middle income” on the mere basis of per capita. A country the size of Saint Lucia, with the vulnerabilities that we face, should not be subjected to such a measuring tool for determining whether a state can stand on its own.” Provided the example of Saint Lucia experiencing “one hurricane in 2010 that caused damage totalling nearly 30% of our GDP.”
- Emphasised that “development cannot be just about assistance, but also means that small states require some fairness and balance in the world economic space.” Pointed out the disappointing collapse of the Doha Round as signifying “difficult times to come in the discussions between developed and developing countries . . .”
- In reference to the MSI and BPOA, stated that “small states are committed to seeing action taken on Climate Change and tangible support for the requisite adaptations and interventions needed at all levels.”
- Expressed his country’s “full support of the conclusions of Rio+20 . . . on the challenges and potential solutions to the climate crisis [and finds comfort] by the words of the Secretary General . . . that we will secure a legally binding agreement to tackle Climate Change by 2015.”
- Looks forward as part of the Caribbean Community to an enhanced cooperation with countries of [the African continent] . . . and propose that it is possible to pursue this process through the UN development institutions in our sphere and on the African continent.”
- Elaborated that the UN would be of great assistance to help forge new avenues of relationships as “traditional economic relations under the auspices of the Commonwealth system, and then the African, Pacific and Caribbean institutional relationships in the context of our trade with Europe, are diminishing.”

**H.E. Mr. Lord Tu'ivakano, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga**

- Expressed delight at the convening “earlier this week of the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels [and joins] other Member States in adopting the Declaration of the High Level Meeting.
- Informed of the meeting on the margins of the General Assembly between the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and the Secretary General, the outcome of which “provides a stronger and regular basis for high level interaction and exchange of views on issues of mutual importance . . .”
- Notified that the Communiqué of this year’s PIF meeting hosted by the Cook Islands “gives proper focus to issues important to Tonga and the region such as sustainable development, climate change, oceans, renewable energy and gender equality.”
- Stated that the “Third International Conference for the Sustainable Development of SIDS [in 2014] should be hosted in the Pacific region.” Indeed, a successful conference “can only be built upon the strong and active participation of all SIDS and a strong, responsive and cohesive UN system attuned to SIDS issues.”
- Informed that Tonga “joined other Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States (‘AOSIS’) yesterday . . . in adopting a Declaration focused on the continuing serious threat of climate change to the territorial integrity, viability and survival of all Small Island States.
- Opined that there is an “urgent need to continue to address the security implications of climate change including the impact on territorial integrity, the frequency and severity of climate related disasters, the threat to water and food security and forced displacement of people.”
- Challenged the international community - in particular developed countries - is to “take the bold measures necessary to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases to levels that ensure a viable and meaningful future for SIDS. . .”
- In reference to Tonga and it’s Pacific neighbours’ connection to the oceans, stated that “more than an ancient pathway to a maritime and seafaring past . . . the oceans and its resources – now potentially represent a liquid highway to a more sustainable future for the Pacific peoples.”
- Stated that “the UNFCCC meeting in Qatar must advance efforts from Durban to bridge differences over key issues such as those related to the Kyoto Protocol’s future, climate finance, closing the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap and constructively addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, bearing in mind the adaptation costs, in developing countries like Tonga.”
- Welcomed “the focus from Rio+20 on sustainable fisheries and developing national capacity, on the importance of access and the role of small scale and artisanal fishers and women, and on the need [. . .] to address the vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves.”
- As a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Tonga is actively interested to implement its obligations under the Convention including through:
  - \* timely negotiation of maritime boundary delimitation agreements with neighbouring States,
  - \* effective participation in the work of the International Seabed Authority and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf,
  - \* implementing related agreements such as the Fish Stocks Agreement, and
  - \* considering the potential development of further legal instruments within the Convention’s framework to reflect new realities.
- Informed that Tonga “will build on the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in SIDS and Rio+20 to implement its voluntary commitment to reducing Tonga’s greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy security through 50% renewable energy mix by 2020.”

- Adopted as part of the PIF Communiqué a Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration setting “a valuable political platform for investing and encouraging women and young girls as a vital part of Tongan society . . .”

**Address by H.E. Tuila’epa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa**

- In mentioning Samoa’s 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary celebrated this year , the Prime Minister went on to state that while Samoa has been blessed with being a country that determines its own future, there still remain countries which do not have the ability to exercise their right to self determination. In this regard he mentioned that “in the case of French Polynesia, we encourage the metropolitan power and the territory’s leadership together with the support of the United Nations to find an amicable way to exercise the right of the people of the territory to determine their future.”
- In reference to the Rio+20 outcome document, stated that “for all the goals to be achieved, every country must deliver on its pledges in good faith and not try to negotiate a way out.”
- Emphasised that “acknowledging SIDS vulnerabilities without attendant resources to strengthen their resilience makes this goal nothing but a hollow victory.”
- Stated that “the call to conserve and harness the marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions including taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention of the Law of the Seas, are important major achievements worthy of support.”
- Welcomed the “decision to hold a SIDS Review meeting in 2014 is important and timely. Samoa’s offer to host this meeting is a matter of record. Coincidentally, 2014 holds special significance for Samoa . . . we will graduate from the category of [LDCs] on 1 January that year. This was one of the motivations for our bid to host the SIDS Review”.
- In reference to the MDGs, emphasised that “success also means that we start the post-2015 [SDGs] framework at higher thresholds, which would help spur greater effort to improve the lives of more and more of our people.”
- Stated that “from Samoa’s perspective, clear, time-bound, targeted and measureable global benchmarks are critical. We must ensure the post 2015 development agenda builds on the important progress of the MDGs.”
- Declared that “important priorities that the 2014 SIDS Meeting identifies in its outcomes, are integrated into global development frameworks of post 2015.”
- Emphasised that “climate change is the world’s most urgent problem requiring a decisive global response.”
- Expressed that “Samoa’s unwavering support for the [UN] Peacekeeping work is underscored by twelve years of uninterrupted police deployment to serve in missions in Liberia, Sudan, Timor-Leste and South Sudan.”
- Reaffirmed Samoa’s “unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms . . . a major threat that must be confronted [collectively] at the national, regional and international levels.”
- Informed that “this week during the Treaty Event, I deposited Samoa’s Instrument of Ratification for the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.”
- In reference to the UN Secretariat, expressed that “Samoa supports the [SG’s] vision to create a professional career service that is flexible and mobile [allowing] quick and positive responses to the diverse demands of member states.”

- In regards to the Security Council, stated that “as long as its current composition and rules ignore today's global realities, it will continue to struggle to gain legitimacy and to effectively carry out its intended tasks as we have witnessed over many years.”
- Emphasised “that the permanent and non-permanent membership categories of the Security Council should be expanded . . . the intergovernmental process should continue . . . during the current session to bring finality to an issue that has taxed members' patience and endurance for over a decade and a half.”
- Stated that for the [UN] to be truly reformed, we also need a strengthened and revitalized General Assembly . . .
- On the issue of Palestine, the PM stated “it is of critical importance for the Palestinians to be allowed to realize their right to a viable state of their own [and] this . . . continues to be Samoa's long-standing position on this issue.”

**H.E. Mr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis**

- Stated that this year's focus is “to continue to steadfastly promote an environment of peace and security [while] it is equally significant that we strive for effective and lasting settlement of disputes [with] Libya and Syria
- Condemned the “senseless attack on the Embassy of the United States of America in Lybia . . . this must be condemned from the highest level.”
- Expressed deep appreciation to the U.S.A. for “the highly valued support, in the form of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, offered to both my country as well as our region . . .”
- Urged the international community “as an absolute priority the production of a much-needed and long-overdue Arms Trade Treaty.”
- Urged for the “establishment of a dedicated secretariat to assist State Parties [for the establishment of international standards and controls governing the illicit flow of conventional weapons].”
- Stressed that before its closure, “the UN Office on Drugs and Crime provided critical hands-on collaboration in . . . crime fighting. With its [closure] the vital support that we need simply is not there . . . precisely . . . when drug and deportee-related crime, continue to be a major hemispheric challenge.”
- Informed of the update to the Plan of Action “that addresses the priorities in keeping with the political Declaration on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) [and that] the Caribbean Community has taken a lead on this matter . . . with the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs.
- Urged the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs “to launch a UN Campaign to curb the global toll of NCD's as we move towards the realization of our Millennium Development Goals.”
- Appealed for a “determined and discerning onslaught against this scourge (HIV/AIDS) at the local, national, and international levels [and] to eradicate the stigmatization and discrimination against people living [with HIV/AIDS].”
- Despite the international debate on climate change, elaborated that “we, in the Caribbean, can attest to the radical climatic shifts that our region has undergone in recent decades [while] it is troubling that the largest contributors of greenhouse gases are still not taking responsibility for the increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, coastal degradation, coral reef bleaching and decimation, infrastructural damage, and loss of lives that their actions have wrought.”
- Stated that the “embrace of green energy will indeed help to halt the intense downward spiral into which our fossil-fuel based economies have thrust our planet, and so we strongly urge that green energy be made an absolute priority globally.”

- Placed on record his Governments “appreciation to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and other development partners for their valuable assistance to my country in the area of renewable energy. . .”
- Applauded the decision to convene “the Third UN Conference on Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States in 2014 [and] stressed the importance of everyone remembering the absolutely essential nature of special and differentiated responsibilities where small island states are concerned.”
- Urged that “clear targets be established now, so that we can all prepare thoroughly and well for the 2014 Conference . . .”
- Emphasised the troublingly destabilizing nature of the global economic crisis “for many countries throughout the region . . . the ramifications of which have been trying and testing regional economic planners. . . to the limit [while indeed] the global economic crisis has severely complicated the task of governance in highly indebted middle income nations like mine [forcing St. Kitts and Nevis] to pursue a new economic development programme, involving fiscal balance and debt restructuring, with built in social safety nets.”
- In reference to the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law, expressed his delegation’s alignment “with the core principle on the Rule of Law as distilled by Lord Justice Bingham, formerly of the House of Lords and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.”
- In reference to the Rule of Law, called on all Member States to “respect this most sacred pillar of international co-existence.”
- On the issue of Taiwan, expressed that “it is only fitting and just that all remaining strictures pertaining to Taiwan’s standing among the international community of nations be removed. And St. Kitts-Nevis appeals to this body to ensure that this will, indeed, be done.”
- On the question of the Cuban embargo, expressed that “it is therefore with utmost conviction, and the clearest possible resolve, that St. Kitts-Nevis calls for the immediate end to the Cuban embargo.”

**H.E. Mr. Meltek Sato Kilman Livtunvanu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu**

- Called on the “independent and free nations of the world to complete the story of decolonization and close this chapter. At this juncture, I urge the United Nations not to reject the demands for French Polynesia’s right to self-determination and progress.”
- Also emphasised that “negotiations for self-government of the indigenous people of New Caledonia must continue. We encourage the parties to ensure that the process to achieve self-government must be on track.”
- Called upon members of the UN “to ensure that collective actions must be taken to lift the embargo on Cuba.”
- In reference to disputed territory with France over the islands of Mathew (Umaenupne) and Hunter (Leka), reiterated “the serious concerns of his country over the denial of the right for a country to exercise its full political freedom and inherent cultural rights over its maritime territories.” Further on this issue the Prime Minister thanked the French Government “for finally opening its door to commencing dialogue and negotiation in an attempt to resolve this long outstanding international dispute.”
- Called on the United Nations “to take a much more rigid approach in expediting the conclusion of an Arms Trade Treaty.”
- In reference to Vanuatu’s graduation from LDC status, stated that “it is unrealistic for the UN agencies to look at the progress and make projections without taking into consideration issues of permanent vulnerabilities and capacity to sustain growth in our countries after graduation.” The

Prime Minister referred to the findings from the World Risk Report 2011, in which “Vanuatu scored highest on the World Risk Index, as the *“country with the greatest disaster risk, due to its high exposure and weak coping capacities.”* The Prime Minister asked that “the UN Committee on Development Policy must carefully weigh these arguments and reassess the vulnerability graduation criteria.”

- Further on the issue of graduation from LDC status, the Prime Minister also stated that “prior to another Triennial Review of the Least Developed Country category the UN will need to ensure that proper UN General Assembly Resolutions are adopted to ensure that Smaller Island States graduating from LDC continue to enjoy certain preferential treatment, even after graduation to offset the vulnerability factor.”
- The Prime Minister extended an invite to members of the Triennial Review, “to visit my country to establish firsthand information and ascertain the findings of the World Risk Report prior to escalating the process of graduation in 2013.”
- Explained that “the different ways the multilateral organizations and institutions are categorizing member countries can affect the flow of development assistance.” The Prime Minister therefore called on “the UN, especially the ECOSOC, to ensure that the LDC definition and criteria used by the UN agencies are compatible with that of the international financial institutions.”
- Expressed the wish to see “the UN’s assistance in facilitating effective responses to global climate change, particularly through the prompt implementation of adaptation measures, as well as mitigation efforts, climate change financing, capacity building, and international negotiations.”
- On the issue of marine pollution, the Prime Minister urged “all remaining states that have not yet done so, to expeditiously sign and ratify the 1972 ‘London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter’ as well as the 1996 Protocol thereto . . .”
- Reiterated the “unnecessary risk to which we expose our children and ourselves by not taking a firm precautionary approach with regards to marine geo-engineering practices such as Sub-Seabed Carbon Sequestration and Ocean Fertilization.”
- In closing, the Prime Minister made a last appeal to all assembled leaders. “I urge you to take immediate action upon return to your home countries and initiate the change that needs to come about if we wish to preserve [the] planet . . .” He reminded leaders of industrialized countries that “if we want to achieve the proposed 1.5 °C target, we have less than eight years left to close a vast mitigation gap.”

**H.E. Mr. Patrice Emery Trovoada, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic São Tomé and Príncipe**

- Elaborated that “we need no further evidence of the urgency for in-depth reforms of our institution, primarily the Security Council, to put an end to the horrific images of children . . . who are killed daily in Syria, to prevent the destruction of the world historic and cultural heritage by gangs of destructive criminals in Mali and in Afghanistan, and to prevent coups d’état . . .”
- On the case of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, stated that “the international community should bring to bear both firmness and dedication to find a credible, inclusive and lasting solution so that coups d’état do not recur in this country. . .”
- Applauded the “efforts the international community has made through the United Nations and the African Union to establish peace, security and stability [regarding the occupation of the North of the Republic of Mali “by groups of terrorists’ and the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo].”
- Applauded the “recent agreement signed by the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan.”

- Expressed to “the mourning families of diplomats, journalists, NGO members and soldiers of peace our sincere and deep condolences as well as our unfailing solidarity.”
- Emphasised that “the massacres in Syria must cease, the integrity and security of the State of Israel must be effective and guaranteed, the Palestinian people must have their State, the embargo against Cuba must end, countries including Iran must have the right to civil nuclear technology . . .”
- Iterated that his country supports “initiatives which will make it possible for the people of Taiwan to make a significant contribution to international issues, without neglecting the necessity for the two parties in the Straits of Formosa to work peacefully to agree to, frame and normalize their relations.”
- Congratulated the Republic of Angola “for successfully and transparently holding the recent general elections . . .”
- Elaborated that of great concern to his country are “the transnational crimes such as piracy, the trafficking and sale of arms and drugs [whereby these] are threats that we cannot ignore and that require our utmost interaction with the States with which we share this long coastline. . .”
- Applauded the “important resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on Maritime Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea and we reaffirm our unfailing pledge to do everything in conjunction with the other partners to prevent the Gulf of Guinea Region . . . from becoming a stage for maritime piracy and other scourges that impede economic trade, peace and security in the Region.”
- Reiterated that “we are absolutely ready and willing to contribute to the success of initiatives that aim to hold an international summit on maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.”
- Expressed the belief that “the persistent international and economic financial crisis and its effects on the economies of small countries . . . tend to threaten social cohesion as well as progress already made in fiscal discipline . . . the business climate and political stability itself.”
- Informed of institutional reforms and capacity building taking place in his country, “namely in the area of public finance, justice and national defence . . .”
- On the MDGs, reported that significant progress was being made, “particularly in the areas of education, with a literacy rate of 92% of our population, and in health, especially for fighting malaria.”
- Took the opportunity to express his gratitude to “the entire international community, and in particular to UNESCO and to all of its Member States for recognizing the Island of Principe as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. . .”

**H.E. Mr. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji**

- Informed that Fiji has not fully recovered from the “worst flooding on record during the months of January and April this year [with destruction to] infrastructure, schools, businesses, agriculture, and tourism - a sector that generates 33 percent of Fiji’s GDP.”
- Stated that “the ongoing failure of the international community to seriously address climate change means we will all see more frequent and more intense weather events [while there is a need] to incorporate disaster risk reduction into global and national development strategies.”
- On the MDGs and post 2015 development agenda, expressed that “we must . . . ensure that a post 2015 development agenda does not simply add the MDG indicators and goals into a delayed target date.”

- While Fiji still has work to be done on meeting MDGs 1,3 and 6, informed that as part of his country's commitments to meet the MDGs, "we are the second country in the world to introduce the Pneumococcal and Rotavirus immunizations as standard, with a view to minimizing child mortality."
- Stated that "the particular case of Small Island Developing States in meeting these goals (MDGs), and their specific challenges, will be addressed by the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 to be held in the Pacific."
- On the subject of oceans, revealed that "our efforts to explore deep sea mineral resources present greater potential [as opposed to marine living resources], provided that a precautionary approach with regard to environmental sustainability is ensured."
- Expressed that "Fiji continues to play a role in peacekeeping missions around the world that is far beyond what is expected of a country of our size and level of development [and that] we are proud that we can make this contribution to global peace and security, and to the lives of citizens far from us."
- Described Fiji's continued "work through the Decolonisation Committee of the United Nations to ensure that New Caledonia's right to self determination, as expressed in the Noumea Accord."
- Informed that elections in Fiji "will be held under a new constitution and electoral system no later than September 2014."
- Notified that in efforts to forge productive, friendly relationships with all nations, "Fiji opened three new embassies in 2011 in Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa. We have expanded our diplomatic presence this year by opening Embassies in the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates."
- Stated that as part of Fiji's progress in reform toward democracy, "we are reviewing our current labour laws to ensure their compliance with the 34 ILO Conventions that Fiji has ratified [while] 8 ILO instruments have been adopted or ratified [this year]."
- Informed that at today's Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 and China, Fiji was endorsed as the Chair of the G77 for the year 2013.

*Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012-10-01*

**H.E. Mr. Frederick A. Mitchell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas**

- Commended the UN "for the convening and outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels."
- Renewed call for "the timely conclusion of negotiations on a draft comprehensive International Convention for the Elimination of Terrorism."
- Condemned in the strongest terms possible "the violence that resulted in the deaths of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other US diplomats a few weeks ago."
- Since the adoption in 2001 of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects . . . "there has been no abatement in the level and intensity of armed violence impacting our country."
- Reiterated his Government's "unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action" for the UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

- Expressed commitment for the creation of a “National Intelligence Agency, National Firearms Control Strategy, including the establishment of a Firearms Department and Database, [plus] enhancing the Country's Defence Force.”
- Thanked UNLIREC for “their support and provision of equipment and capacity-building assistance in the area of firearms destruction and stockpile management.”
- Expressed “profound disappointment about the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in July. . .” [while] Bahamas supports the views articulated by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of CARICOM, during the month long Conference.”
- In reference to sustainable energy, stated that “this issue is so important to us that the Prime Minister has taken it as a personal mission to seek to solve this issue.”
- Under UNCLOS the Bahamas has taken action “to preserve our fish stock . . . ban long line fishing . . . establish a shark sanctuary, and establish and expand marine protected areas.”
- Welcomed the “convening of the Third International Conference on SIDS (Barbados+20) and will participate actively in the upcoming [GA] consultations to determine the modalities of the Meeting.”
- In reference to SDGs, stated that “different national realities, capacities and levels of development, [must be taken into account].”
- Expressed the hope that Bahamas would be able to “work in the context of the Open-ended Working Group for the development of the [SDGs] as well as in the Intergovernmental Committee on Financing, agreed at Rio+20, to ensure that our special concerns are fully addressed.”
- Stated that the “high level Panel of the Secretary-General on global post-2015 development planning . . . should also incorporate the views of geographical and economic anomalies such as those of the Caribbean sub-Region.”
- Emphasised that the “Bahamas, along with the wider Group of 77 and China continues to call for the conversion of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation on Tax Matters into an Intergovernmental Subsidiary body of the ECOSOC.”
- Stated that the unemployment rate of [15.9%], had “been identified at the highest political level, as the most critical near-term priorities for the Government.”
- Expressed that the GNI of The Bahamas was “significantly affected by a small population of wealthy expatriates whose high incomes skew this measure away from true economic realities [and that] GNI per capita should not be used as a pretext to restrict our access to financial assistance.”
- In reference to the Scale of Assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations Regular Budget and Peacekeeping Operations for the period 2013-2015, reiterated the Bahamas’ “longstanding position that per capita [GNI] . . . should not be accorded overriding weight in determining capacity to pay”.
- Emphasised that a “Security Council, predicated on an increased membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, as well as modification of its working methods, is overdue.”

**H.E. Mr. Apisai Ielemia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tuvalu**

- Expressed a firm belief that “the use of force through military and violent actions as a means for settlement of disputes . . . should be avoided at all cost.”
- Posed the question “Does the UN hear the plea of [SIDS] for fair treatment by the international community?” The Minister answered “we consider this lasting concern almost totally unanswered.” Following on, the Minister provided observations:
  1. [Although much appreciated] “this work has been almost entirely focussed on stating, and indefinitely reiterating the challenges and problems of SIDS.”
  2. “There is no part of the SIDS work in the UN [that has] ever generated international support measures specifically reserved for SIDS. In other words, the UN, in 20 years, has not been able to hear and answer the pleas, our island States have been making for a special treatment of these countries. SIDS status and SIDS-specific treatment is truly what our small island States are in need of . . .”
  3. “Third, is to reply to those, within and outside the UN, who have been arguing that the case for a special treatment of SIDS is not, and should not be on the UN agenda, because a special treatment of SIDS would imply the existence of a SIDS category, and apparently, we are told, SIDS cannot be considered and dealt with as a special category. Therefore, SIDS are only an abstract notion deliberately kept undefined, because any clarity or any debate on who they are, and what precisely could be done for them would be too challenging or disturbing.”
- Observed that “the third decade of UN work on SIDS should not be another round of lip service.” Implied that “international measures for SIDS be identified [and] that some order be put in the definition of SIDS, a . . . condition for making SIDS a genuine, internationally accepted category of countries.”
- Expressed Tuvalu’s appreciation in the decision by the Committee for Development Policy to consider Tuvalu’s graduation from LDC status at the next substantive session in 2013. Also emphasised the “urgent need for the UN to revisit such criteria to reflect and capture the real situation of economies of countries eligible for graduation.”
- Posed the question that “if geographical limitations and extreme vulnerabilities of Tuvalu do not justify special consideration, what is the purpose of special and differentiated treatment, the cornerstone of international cooperation?”
- Emphasised that Tuvalu continues to “seek the cooperation of development partners to provide . . . financial and technical support to ensure the successful implementation [of the BPOA, MSI and IPOA].”
- Expressed support and urged “perseverance with the UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change in order to gain substance to international agreements.”
- Pledged that “we [Tuvalu] have challenged ourselves to be 100% renewable in 2020 in our energy sector.”
- Stated that “Tuvalu seeks the donors’ assistance in realizing their pledges in establishing early warning systems pertaining to tsunamis or tropical cyclones . . .” Also offered Tuvalu’s “established Trust Fund protocols to the UN and development partners’ funding mechanisms for climate change adaptation . . .”
- Urged the UN and the Secretariat to act as facilitator of such developments [alternative energy technologies including solar, wind and wave] and expedite technology transfer . . .”
- Called for “the UN and subsidiary bodies especially, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to recognise and accept Taiwan to participate and contribute meaningfully in their meetings and activities without any reservations.”

**H.E. Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore**

- Expressed concern that a “combination of weak consumer demand in developing countries and a continuing crisis in the Eurozone may lead to a global recession. An even greater danger, especially to small states like Singapore that depend on global trade, is the risk of increased protectionism.”
- Stated that at the global “rising income disparities, climate change, and worries about food security are not adequately addressed.”
- Iterated that “growing frustration over the inability of existing multilateral institutions to [deal with] global challenges has given rise to a greater tendency for countries to turn to smaller and exclusive groups outside of the UN multilateral framework for solutions.”
- Expressed the view that rather than continuing to invent small groupings, “we should look for ways to strengthen and reform existing multilateral institutions such as the UN, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation so as to achieve greater efficiency. . .”
- Observed that while many ‘of us’ fault the UN, “let us not forget that the UN and its organs, including the Security Council, can only do what its members choose to do. Any failure of the Security Council and the UN in maintaining peace and security represents a failure of the Member States themselves.”
- Emphasised Singapore’s consistent calls “for an improvement in the Security Council’s working methods.”
- Informed that “this year, the 105-member Forum of Small States (FOSS) will commemorate its 20th anniversary with a High-Level Conference on Small States on 1 October”.

**Address by H.E. Mr. Rimbink Pato Minister for Foreign Affairs, Papua New Guinea**

- [In August 2012] “Papua New Guinea was able to successfully complete the General Elections in a fair and peaceful manner. . .”
- Talked of the “need to strengthen our economy to be more resilient to global market shocks by diversifying trade, investment and reviewing development cooperation . . .”
- Emphasised “increasing investment . . . in free and quality education from elementary to secondary level and further subsidizing education from Grade 12 to tertiary-level. This will enable us to achieve MDG 2 on Universal Basic Education . . .”
- Stated that the Government has “prioritized combating corruption at all levels of Papua New Guinea institutions and society [by adopting] “zerotolerance. An “Independent Commission Against Corruption [was established to] enhance implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).”
- Stated the economy was “growing at a rate of around 8 percent annually. Our improved economic performance is underscored by political stability, sound macroeconomic management and the development of the first-ever largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project further [increasing] the growth of our economy.”
- PNG has adopted the UN SG’s “Five Year Action Agenda” on sustainable development.
- Urged donor partners to “abide by the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.
- Welcomed the “UN’s proactive engagement with the Pacific region and thank[ed] the United Nations Secretary-General for his visit and commitment.”

- Noted that with the “support of our development partners such as the European Union and the United Nations, Papua New Guinea is to trial the Millennium Villages concept this month.”
- Reiterated that the “MDGs need to be the priority while we discuss the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).”
- Stated that “Papua New Guinea is committed to gender empowerment and equality.”
- Underscored accession to the International Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that “Papua New Guinea is also working with our Pacific Islands Forum member States to host the Pacific Islands Forum Disability Ministers Meeting from 3 - 4 October 2012 in Port Moresby.”
- Expressed concern with the continued proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) [along with the] recent impasse on negotiations . . . [and urged] member countries to continue work to conclude this Treaty.”
- Expressed “support [for] the call made by the UN Secretary-General for the reform of the United Nations systems. We again call for the reform of the UN Security Council in both the Permanent and Non Permanent category to reflect the geopolitical realities of today.”

*Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012*

**H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba**

- Noted that “the Argentinean sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, which our country fervently supports, and the lifting of the blockade against Cuba, were the focus of a declaration [at last year’s Summit of the Americas].”
- In reference to the establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), stated that “Latin America and the Caribbean [are on course to] making a greater contribution to the equilibrium of the world.”
- Stated that the US policy towards our region, whether under Democrat or Republican governments, “is essentially the same [while] promises made by the current President back in 2009 were not fulfilled.”
- In reference to the “imminent elections” in Venezuela, stated that “we would like to express to the Venezuelan people and its leader, President Chavez, our full solidarity in the face of the destabilizing attempts that loom in the horizon.”
- Warned that “the governing powers in the United States will make a very serious mistake of unpredictable consequences if they attempt to reverse by force the social achievements attained by our peoples.”
- Expressed continued support and hosting of “the upcoming process of dialogue between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.”
- Offered support to the cause of Puerto Rican independence.
- Reported that “the overthrowing of governments through the use of force and violence is being blatantly encouraged; the “change of regime” is being imposed from Washington and other NATO member countries . . . [and that] the US and some European governments have decided to overthrow the Syrian government, for which they have armed, financed and trained opposition groups.”
- Reaffirmed “the right of the Syrian people to the full exercise of self determination and sovereignty without any interference or foreign intervention.”

- Elaborated that “it is the duty of the General Assembly to make use of its faculties to promote a peaceful solution to the current situation that is ruining that Arab country [Syria].”
- On the question of Palestine, stated that “the General Assembly should act with resolve and recognize the Palestinian State as a full member of the United Nations . . . with the boundaries established prior to 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital; and it should do so now, with or without the consent of the Security Council . . . United States veto . . . or new peace negotiations.”
- Elaborated that environmental destruction is worsening while biodiversity loss is accelerating and that “the marginalization of more than half of the world’s population and the absence of global measures to stop the advance of climate change [leads to] an ever-growing risk to the physical integrity of entire nations, particularly small Island States.”
- Questioned the “fact that, twenty years after the end of the so-called "Cold War" the military budget has almost doubled to reach the astronomical figure of 1.74 trillion dollars.”
- On reform of the UN, stated that “the key role of the General Assembly should be restored and a democratic, transparent and truly representative Security Council should be re-launched.”
- On the issue of Cuba’s inclusion by the United States on its list of States that support international terrorism, the Minister called “for the United States to stop lying and put an end to this shameful exercise which is an outrage against the Cuban people and the international community and a discredit to the cause of the struggle against terrorism.”
- Concluded that “we reiterate to the United States, on the days prior to its elections, our irrevocable vocation for peace and our interest to move on to the normalization of relations through dialogue, on an equal footing and with absolute respect for our independence”.

**H.E. Ms. Maxine Pamela Ometa McClean, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados**

- Stated that “Barbados is severely challenged by the global financial and economic crisis and the recession . . .”
- Commented that Barbados’ “political and social stability [has] facilitated the achievement of a standard of living which has led Barbados to be consistently ranked among the top 50 nations in the UNDP's Human Development Index.”
- Emphasised that “we have been classified as a middle income developing country. In reality we are a SIDS, characterised by high debt, high vulnerability to external shocks, and susceptibility to the impacts of Climate Change and natural disasters. The global economic and environmental situation has had a disproportionate effect on our successful, but nevertheless vulnerable economy.”
- Expressed that the country’s efforts to address its challenges have “been severely undermined by international financial and cooperation mechanisms which fail [to account for] the vulnerability and capacity constraints. . . Barbados and [others] have been graduated from grant and concessionary financing by the multilateral institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, ignoring our unique situation.
- Commented that the “use of international classification and ratings systems which are solely based on GDP per capita and other narrow criteria must be expanded in scope to take into account meaningful variables such as vulnerability.” In this regard, welcomed “the SG’s assertion” that “the use of per capita income to classify countries as a means of guiding development cooperation disregards the nature and multidimensional nature of development”.
- Expressed that Barbados “endorses the need for the adoption of new indices and measures of development and applauds on-going work of bodies such as the Commonwealth and the UN Statistical Commission . . .”

- On climate change, welcomed the “decision taken in Durban to launch negotiations on a new legally binding agreement that would take effect after 2020.” Expressed that “a post-2020 agreement is meaningless if ambitious actions are not taken now to reduce global emissions and provide finance and technology to vulnerable developing countries.”
- Noted that the “upcoming Climate Change Conference in Doha must . . . prioritize the pre-2020 actions [ensuring] the world is on track in 2020 to meet the below 2 degree or 1.5 degree globally agreed goals. This will include:
  1. Clarity from developed countries on the scale of climate finance after the end of the fast start finance period this year.
  2. A greater sense of urgency and ambition in reducing global emissions before 2020 to minimize and avoid potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change.”
- Expressed commendation to “the Governments of Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom for pledging, in the Barbados Declaration, to support SIDS in the implementation of our ambitious commitments.”
- Informed that this session of the Assembly will consider a resolution on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. “Barbados has led the regional effort in the Association of Caribbean States to create the Caribbean Sea Commission. The Commission represents an oceans governance framework to promote cooperation towards effective management of the Caribbean Sea area. Barbados calls on the international community to support this initiative including the designation by the General Assembly of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.”

**H.E. Mr. Arvin Boolell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritius**

- Stated that “as fall out of the [economic] crisis threatens to impact more significantly, already vulnerable Small Island States, many of these island states are also facing [the major threat of climate change].”
- Informed that “Mauritius affirms that along with initiatives to revisit development objectives, reform of the international financial architecture and Global Economic Governance must remain a top priority.”
- Strongly supports the view that “the present economic crisis is of a global nature and that the solutions for an inclusive green growth also need to be global in nature.”
- Indicated that the “inconclusive talks of the Doha Round and of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change both stem from a historical divide which regrettably resurfaces from time to time and specially at a time when global solutions are, more than ever, necessary.”
- Informed that “nations must resist protectionist measures as an easy way out. This can only be detrimental in the medium and long term.”
- In reference to the Committee on Development Policy’s July 2012 report *Transformative Agenda to Development* stated that “the international community must pledge its support for a transformative agenda based on the recognition that globally coordinated solutions are necessary to accompany sound domestic policies.”
- Reaffirmed support for “a revitalized ECOSOC which should effectively have the role and function attributed to it by the Charter.” Also welcomed “the reaffirmation of the mandate of UNCTAD at Doha.”
- Opined that “regional integration and cooperation are key to future development. Trade and investment must also be accompanied by greater regional cooperation in pooling of resources [for instance in the energy sector] and provision of public goods.”

- Welcomed the reaffirmation by world leaders at Rio de Janeiro “that Small Island Developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.”
- Emphasised that “it is imperative that SIDS issues be more effectively mainstreamed across [the] UN . . . and that a dedicated and clearly identified focal point be set up within every UN entity dealing with SIDS issues. The SIDS Unit within UNDESA should be strengthened to enable it to provide coordinated support for SIDS.”
- Stated that “Mauritius joins other world leaders who have called on all countries to deliver on their commitments [as] we can only move forward if past commitments are honoured.”
- Welcomed the establishment of “the Sustainable Development Committee to follow up on Rio+20 and formulate Sustainable Development Goals [plus] the appointment of a High Level Panel on Post 2015 Development Agenda.”
- Emphasised that “the international community cannot remain indifferent to [the] suffering [of the Syrian people].”
- Likewise, emphasised that “the world cannot . . . remain indifferent to the suffering of the Palestinian people without a universally recognized State . . .”
- Alluding to the film lambasting the Prophet Mohammed, stated that “we strongly believe that there is no justification for violence, however serious is the outrage at religious vilification [and that in reference to the fundamental principle of protection of diplomats] we call on all members of the comity of nations to fully respect this principle.”
- Called on the international community “to support the full implementation of the road map in our neighbouring State of Madagascar and to provide the transition government with the means to ensure a speedy return to constitutional rule and democracy. . .”
- Very much welcomed “the high level meeting on Rule of Law.”
- Informed that “the United Kingdom excised part of Mauritian territory prior to independence and has refused to enter into talks in good faith over this dispute [including through the International Court of Justice, thus] we urge the international community to work on machinery that enables States, whatever their size or economic power, to have judicial or other peaceful means of resolving disputes.”

**H.E. Mr. Winston Dookeran, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

- Endorsed the statement by the President of the General Assembly:  
*A growing number of states are determined to enhance their external engagement, aspiring to play greater roles in their respective regions and beyond. As a result, power and influence in the international arena are becoming diffuse.*
- Called on “all nation states to ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression.”
- Reaffirmed the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
- Stated that “Member States must move with haste to restructure the Security Council [and it] must be reformed to represent the current geopolitical realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”
- Expressed grave concern “that the Security Council has not been able to effectively address the situation in Sirya [thus] we appeal to the Council to fully support the work of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi – Joint Special Representative for Syria . . .”
- Called for leadership by the Permanent Members of the [Security] Council to bring an end to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.” Furthermore, “the [UN] must commit all available resources to

mediating a two state agreement . . . in full accordance with relevant resolutions reaffirming borders existing before 1967.”

- Expressed that the blockade against Cuba is regarded as “anachronism [and] we therefore call, yet again, for its removal.”
- Stated that his country “would have preferred a more equitable geographical representation on the Secretary General’s Panel on the acceleration of efforts to achieve the . . . MDGs, we however welcome its establishment.”
- Called for “fresh and bold changes and a paradigm shift in thinking in the design of the post 2015 development agenda.”
- Emphasised the need to “fully implement our obligations under the [UNFCCC] and its Kyoto Protocol [thus] would guarantee the survival of those of us most vulnerable to climate change . . .”
- Expressed that “the prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) . . . poses a serious threat to Caribbean development [and that] Trinidad and Tobago laments the lack of action on the Political Declaration adopted one year ago on the prevention and control of these diseases.” Furthermore, urged “that this matter be given high priority on the international development agenda.”
- Expressed deep regret at “the failure of the UN Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty [and] join our CARICOM partners and others in the call for the resumption of the negotiations for the Arms Trade Treaty by the first quarter of 2013.”
- Informed that Trinidad and Tobago hosted “a High-Level discussion with other Member States, representatives of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as the NGO Community in the margins of the General Assembly last week on the topic: *Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.*” Requested that “all Member States . . . support this resolution when it comes before the General Assembly in this session.”
- Applauded the “Special Agreement signed by the Governments of Belize and Guatemala to submit to the International Court of Justice for adjudication of their long-standing border dispute.”
- Informed that his country has “delimited our maritime boundaries through bilateral negotiations and arbitrations in keeping with the provisions of [UNCLOS].”
- Elaborated that Trinidad and Tobago joins with the “Prime Minister of Jamaica in calling on the major international leading lending agencies to recognize the special circumstances of middle-income countries and not to push them to the margins of the development agenda.” In the same light, expressed that “small and middle-income nations must not be excluded from development cooperation and financing on the singular basis of per capita income.”

**H.E. Mr. Wilfred Elrington, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Attorney General of Belize**

- Informed that since independence in 1981, “our homeland is still being threatened by a territorial claim dating back to post 1940s, by our neighbour Guatemala.”
- Informed that “both Governments of Guatemala and Belize have agreed to a recommendation of the [SG] of the Organization of American States to allow the Guatemalan claim to be adjudicated upon by the International Court of Justice if that is the will of the citizens of our respective countries expressed in simultaneous referenda to be held on October 6, 2013.”
- Elaborated on the importance being placed on the education and welfare of his country’s children and youth of which half of the population is under the age of 25.
- Expressed that the Belize fully embraces the multilateral system and our co-operation partners around the world.”

- Referred to the urgency of moving towards “shaping a post 2015 development agenda which reflects our equal stake in a common future.”
- Stated that “the impact of climate change on our region has been direct and devastating, compelling us to join forces with our CARICOM partners and with the wider Alliance of Small Island States to advance our interests in the climate change negotiation process.” In this light, informed that Belize is the proud “host to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center . . .”
- Expressed that a regional response is imperative to combat [transnational trafficking in humans, drugs and arms] and that “Belize is committed to the implementation of the Central America Regional Security Strategy . . .”
- Exclaimed the urgency “that we redouble our efforts to break the gridlock and reach the compromise necessary to arrive at a consensus on an Arms Trade Treaty as early as possible.”
- Opined that “the States of Latin America and the Caribbean are almost all in our view wrongly and unjustly classified as middle income countries [and thus] all our countries have been calling for a change in paradigm so that the classification of countries as middle-income countries no longer guides development cooperation. We urge all our development partners to please heed this call and to redress this matter”.
- Echoed the call by other Member States “for the lifting of the economic embargo against Cuba . . .”
- Urged for Taiwan’s full participation in the United Nations.
- Expressed that “urgent attention must be given to the concerns of the people of Israel and of Palestine . . .”

**H.E. Mr. Winston G. Lackin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname**

- Informed that as “refiners and exporters of crude oil . . . as well as producers and exporters of gold, a combination of windfalls in earnings [and] the application of prudent fiscal policies, have resulted in a political and economic stable environment.” Also commented on the potential for Suriname to take its place “on the world map as one of the players on the supply side of strategic commodities.”
- Commented on the kinship and tolerance amongst the various religious institutions within Suriname.
- In relation to securing biodiversity, informed that Suriname has created a nature reserve of 1.8 million hectares.
- Informed of Suriname’s vast wealth in natural resources including “oil reserves, trillions of cubic meters of fossil water reserves . . . minerals including gold, copper, granite, rare earth and more . . .”
- Expressed Suriname’s “serious quest to be embedded within the context of its immediate neighbours Guyana, France and Brazil at a bilateral and . . . a tripartite level.” Also informed that the UNASUR Secretariat will be based in Suriname as of July 2013.
- Called upon the international community “to honour its pledges to assist the government and people of Haiti in their efforts in rebuilding their beloved country.”
- On the question of the Cuban embargo, “we firmly call for an immediate end to these coercive measures, causing so much suffering to the people of Cuba.”
- Urged all Member States “in general, and the former colonial powers in particular, to accept the new reality of our world by categorically refraining from applying their own standards to judge the outcome of other countries’ democratic structures and aspirations. . .”

- On gender equality and the empowerment of women, stated that “it is necessary to increase the ability of women all over the world to bring about change [and to ] ensure that they can exist in an environment free from violence and conducive to their well-being, including access to decent employment, services and housing.”
- Acknowledged the global burden and threat of Non-Communicable Diseases while stressing “the importance of multi-sectoral actions [and that] Suriname has increased its efforts in the fight against these often overlooked silent killers.”
- Stated that Rio+20’s lack of a clear commitment regarding financing for development “is a very serious matter considering the threat of climate change, among others, to a successful outcome of the efforts of small states like Suriname towards achieving sustainable development.”
- Expressed deep concern with regard to “the basic premise upon which countries in development are classified in the international financial institutional framework [whereby] these decisions [are] undemocratic, and a virtual punishment of our achievements in improving our social economic situation”.

**H.E. Ms. Dessima Williams, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations**

- Informed that Parliament has passed “the *End Violence Against Women Legislative and Policy Reform* [April 2012]
- Expressed that “the fruits of nature and of our own efforts have been undermined by Hurricanes Ivan and Emily in 2004 and 2005 and the advent, in 2008, of the global financial and economic crisis.”
- Stated that “Grenada has long considered itself *An Island of Sustainability* [whereby] Sustainable Development describes Grenada’s holistic policy framework [of which our energy policy aims] to reduce fossil fuel usage by 20% by the year 2020. . .”
- Recalled that Grenada is recovering from the destruction caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Emily in 2005 in which the World Bank determined loss at 204% of GDP.
- While Grenada is defined as a middle-income country, stated that the global economic downturn had dwarfed “our development efforts due to loss of tourism and port receipts and even remittances.” Listed challenges including: “high cost of fuel and food; costs associated with confronting the illicit trafficking in drugs and small arms and light weapons, and related crime; and an increase in unemployment and poverty.”
- Informed that “in January 2013, Grenada will co-host a meeting in the Caribbean with business innovator Sir Richard Branson to ensure sustainable management of our marine and coastal resources.”
- Opined that “the [Caribbean] region and all small island developing states and developing countries as a whole, need a far more supportive international policy climate and affordable financing for a safe and secure way forward into greater sustainability.”
- Called for “commitments to developing countries to be met and we remain willing partners for South-South cooperation.”
- Called for “a politically negotiated and urgent end to the situation and we reiterate our support for the work of diplomacy by the United Nations and the Arab League.”
- Reiterated the call for “a State for the Palestinian people, in a negotiated two-State agreement with Israel through a Peace Plan.”
- Extended “heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the United States of America and to the bereaved families of Ambassador Chris Stevens and his colleagues.”

- Called for “the cessation of the trafficking of weapons through our region and for a firm and comprehensive, yet expeditious agreement on small arms and light weapons.”
- Renewed the call for “the preservation of the Caribbean Sea as a Zone of Peace and Development and an end to the passage of nuclear waste in our waters.”
- Called on the international community “to lend its fullest and broadest support to this conference [Third Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States].”
- Called on the General Assembly to “designate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States to raise awareness of the special situation of SIDS and to mobilize international support for their sustainable development.”
- On climate change, welcomed the commitment of “the European Union to agree to an ambitious Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol and to climate financing.” Also called on other developed countries “to do likewise and on the Secretary General to help States Parties move steadfastly toward the finalization of a new binding climate treaty by 2015 and a gap-less period of climate financing starting January 2013.”
- On Security Council Reform, expressed that reform should include small island developing states. Stated that “reorganization of the United Nations must not mean the loss of vital country programmes, especially for small countries.”
- Called for “the complete removal of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against our sister Caribbean state of Cuba.”
- On the question of Haiti, expressed renewed appeal to “the international community to fulfil its commitments and where possible increase its contributions to the humanitarian and development needs of Haiti.”
- Informed that “on August 6th, Grenada made history, winning its first Olympic medal, a Gold in the Men’s 400 meters . . .”

**H.E. Mr. Stuart Beck, Ambassador Extraordinary And Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative  
Of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations**

- Informed that this year, UNESCO's designated the Rock Islands as 2012's only natural and cultural world heritage site.
- On the launch of the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009, informed that “today, 1.8 million square miles of ocean – an area approximately nine times the size of Palau's waters - are safe for sharks.”
- Acknowledged Resolution 63/281 by which Germany – as president of the Security Council – heeded the call to have a Presidential Statement “highlighting the potential risks of climate change to international peace and security.”
- On oceans, informed that “sustainable fisheries are Palau’s lifeblood [in which] we have limited purse seine fishing, agreed to close the donut holes between our jurisdictions, and implemented an innovative "vessel day scheme" through the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.”
- Outlined Palau’s three principles for global fisheries: “(i) global fisheries should be fair . . . distant water vessels . . . should recognize our right to realize the benefits of our natural resources, (ii) global fisheries should be sustainable, (iii) global fisheries should be accountable . . . with reports showing 87% of global fish stocks are now fully or over exploited [and that] Regional Fisheries Management Organizations should do better, and should be more transparent.”
- On domestic initiatives, reported that Palau has taken steps “to reduce our emissions by solarizing our airport, our government buildings, and our highways. By 2020, we will generate

20% of our energy from renewable sources. We have also created a successful green mortgage program to assist the financing of greener homes . . ." Also informed that Palau continues to seek partners to develop broadband connection in the country.

- On Human Rights, informed that with the help of partners, "we are translating human rights conventions into Palauan, bringing the lessons of international human rights into our schools, harmonizing our national legislation, regulations, and practices with the international human rights instruments. . ."
- Informed of a regional workshop in October between the Government and partners in eradicating unexploded ordnance.
- Expressed the belief that "Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UN system will help to further promote the efficacy, goals and ideals of the UN, including at the [ICAO] and [UNFCCC]."
- Condemned in "the strongest possible terms the recent [US] Embassy attacks in the Middle East.
- On climate change, stated that "we have experienced more than 100 consecutive months of temperatures above global averages. Nine of the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since the year 2000. Arctic sea ice is at its lowest level in recorded history. Coral reefs are disappearing at an alarming rate." Also iterated that "the current situation at the UNFCCC is unacceptable. After more than twenty years of negotiations, we are running out of creative ways to say that countries are being destroyed."

**H.E. Mr. Vince Henderson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica**

- Expressed that "unsustainable consumption and production systems that . . . deplete the world's resources and simultaneously contribute to global warming, remains a major threat to the survival of those of us who live close to the world's oceans."
- Stated that the Rio+20 outcome document "falls short of our expectations [however] it presents a useful platform for continued discussions for multilateral resolutions . . ."
- Welcomed the agreement to convene "the Third International Conference for the Sustainable Development of SIDS in 2014 in the Pacific [and] we are of the view that the Third SIDS Conference will provide an opportunity for the implementation of the outcomes of Rio +20 the [BPoA] and the [MSI]."
- On climate change, expressed encouragement that the recently concluded "climate talks in Bangkok has "prepared a fertile ground" for the Doha Talks later this year." Also stressed the importance of extending and amending the Kyoto Protocol . . ."
- On energy, stated that "low-carbon economies in SIDS, therefore, provide an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while decreasing dependence on imported fossil fuel [and that] SIDS Dock [of which Dominica is serving as Chair] is currently providing a global platform for SIDS to pursue their renewable energy ambitions by building capacity and providing technical support to member states."
- Announced that recent test drilling in the Roseau Valley "has confirmed that our geothermal resources have the potential to supply domestic needs as well as for export." Also informed that "the development of a power plant for export to the French Territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique will provide a source of revenue for the island [work is expected to commence on the first power plant in the first quarter of 2013]."
- Expressed gratitude to President Bill Clinton for his support and work through the Clinton Climate Initiative.

- Stated that through his country's energy policies, "Dominica will, not only be carbon neutral, but carbon negative by 2020."
- Invited "developed countries and international institutions to join the Governments of Denmark and Japan, and the Clinton Climate Initiative in the SIDS DOCK Partnership and the Government of Norway in its Energy for All initiative, in providing the critical support to SIDS."
- On global peace and security, stated that "the Commonwealth of Dominica condemns these unjustified attacks which resulted in the unfortunate loss of life of the US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and his colleagues."
- Emphasised concern that "the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the Republic of Haiti is allowed to linger much to the concern of Dominica and the CARICOM."
- Called on the government of the United States "to allow the people of Cuba to be fully integrated into the global trading system . . ."
- Expressed that Dominica is "disturbed that despite four weeks of rigorous deliberations . . . the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, ("the UNCATT"), did not result in the finalization of the treaty." Also acknowledged that "long-term socio-economic development of many nations particularly SIDS such as Dominica is severely compromised because of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in our region [which is compounded by the trafficking of narcotics through the Caribbean from South to North America]."