



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**
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STATEMENT BY
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THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. President,

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your election as the President of the current Session of the General Assembly. My delegation wishes to assure you of its full support and cooperation during your tenure of office. May I also express my appreciation to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Julian Hunte, for his leadership and tireless work over the past year.

My appreciation also goes to His Excellency Kofi Annan and his staff for their continuous hard work and commitment. The Secretary-General's personal dedication and leadership to the work of the UN, especially his efforts towards global peace and stability is an inspiration to us all. This is required even more so in view of what many of us here described as a disturbing world development.

On behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, I wish to extend our sympathy and condolences to the governments and people of the United States and the Caribbean countries for the devastation caused by the hurricanes.

Mr. President,

Since its establishment fifty-nine years ago, the United Nations has achieved a lot especially in ensuring international peace and security and creating a stable and prosperous world. There has not been any world war since then and it has made positive impact in many fields, such as peacekeeping, eradication of various diseases and socio-economic development. We highly commend these efforts and value the sacrifices of those involved.

However, the achievements made by the United Nations have been undermined by increasingly complex international developments.

In his annual report on the work of the organisation, the Secretary-General stated that the United Nations has been through "an extraordinarily challenging year". It was the year when the Iraq war has brought the debate about the UN's role into sharper focus.

Moreover, our organisation is still pre-occupied with many unresolved issues. Among others, the Palestinian conflict remains a grave concern. Terrorism and weapons of mass destruction continue to pose serious threats. At the same time, poverty, environmental degradation and the spread of diseases cause further misery and hardship to millions.

These demand our effective response, which will ultimately define the relevance of our organisation.

We therefore, need a strong and effective United Nations more than ever, one that is able to promote world peace and development. It must also give hope and purpose to the people who increasingly look upon it to improve their lives.

The United Nations, however, cannot do all these on its own. For it to carry out its responsibilities effectively, member countries need to work together, contribute resources and honour their commitments.

As we work collectively to meet today's complex challenges, we must continue to adhere to the principles enshrined in the Charter. All the various conventions and treaties, from nuclear non-proliferation to environmental conservation, are manifestations of how we and the United Nations aim at protecting our people as well as ensuring that they can live to their fullest potential. In this regard, I wish to congratulate our Secretary-General for his address to this General Assembly where he emphasized the importance of these aspects. It is through our reaffirmation of the Charter's principles that we can effectively uphold human ideals, enhance security and stability, and promote sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Without doubt, the United Nations is the most universal international body to provide a multilateral response. In order for it to be better equipped, there is a need for us to reform the U.N. in a more urgent manner.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam fully supports the Secretary-General's efforts in strengthening and revitalising the United Nations. In particular, we welcome the work of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change which he has set up to address this.

Here, we believe that the reform should be comprehensive to also include an expanded and more representative Security Council, a revitalized role of the General Assembly and better coordination among the UN agencies. The interest of a number of countries to serve as permanent members of the Security Council is a clear indication of the desire for change.

Next year, this Assembly will consider the report of the High Level Panel and the recommendations of the Secretary-General. I realise how difficult it is to find a solution that is acceptable to all but it is incumbent upon member states to make a difference by instituting the much-needed reforms. So, a willingness to find a balanced set of proposals will be necessary. We look forward to the report, which hopefully, will make the necessary bold and realistic proposals to end the decade-long debate on this issue.

It will also be a critical time for us next year when we review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. To ensure that the commitments set forth in the Declaration are implemented as scheduled, we must act without delay. As far as Brunei

Darussalam is concerned, we are doing our part in achieving the objectives of these Goals.

Mr. President,

As we begin to look into our agenda for this session, we must remain focused on the issues affecting the many innocent lives in Palestine.

Recent developments such as the illegal construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories must be stopped and reversed. The legal ruling made by the International Court of Justice and the subsequent resolution of the General Assembly reflect the overwhelming support of the international community to end injustice in the Occupied Territories.

The concerned parties must do all they can to prevent the situation from deteriorating. They must make serious efforts to honour their obligations as outlined in the Road Map. It is critical that progress should be made so that we can find a comprehensive, just and durable solution to this long-standing conflict.

Situation in other parts of the Middle East like Iraq has created enormous anxiety. We acknowledge the central role of the United Nations as well as the efforts of other countries and parties in addressing the political and humanitarian dimensions of the problems.

In our region, we recognise that the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula has serious impact on the peace, stability and security of the Asia-Pacific. We appreciate the role of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States through the Six-Party Talks in seeking a solution through dialogue. It is important that all parties concerned continue with their efforts towards achieving a peaceful resolution to this issue.

Mr. President,

We are deeply saddened by the horrifying scenes of casualties inflicted upon the innocent people due to terrorist acts. Brunei Darussalam would like to convey its great sympathy to the governments and people of the countries in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, which have been targets of terrorist attacks during the year. We strongly condemn these atrocious acts.

Terrorism affects all of us – women and men, adults and children, developed and developing countries. It knows no boundaries, and it has no ethnic, racial and religious affiliations. Despite concerted efforts, devastating incidents this year have heightened the threats and challenges posed by terrorism. These acts are becoming more complex and our fight against them is far from over. It is therefore important to address this problem in a comprehensive manner and in doing so, we need to identify and _

understand its real source and root causes. This is what we have to bear in mind if we were to achieve a long-term solution. At the same time, we must not allow terrorists from dividing us and undermining our determination to fight this menace collectively.

Mr. President,

The challenges that we face require us to move forward to ensure that the United Nations continues to play its pivotal role. I am confident Mr. President, that under your able leadership, the General Assembly will achieve much success and make the necessary decisions so as to fulfil the hopes and expectations of the people whom it represents.

Our tasks are great Mr. President. So too are our capabilities when we all work together.

Thank you.