

# SAMOA



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

**STATEMENT**

by

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PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE**

of

**THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA**

**New York, 24 September 2004**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr President,

Samoa congratulates you warmly on your election to steer the course of our Organization's work at this critical time in its 59 year history. I know that you will continue the good work of your predecessor in highlighting the multidimensional nature of international security and the need to reform the UN, so that our Organization responds more effectively to the current and emerging challenges facing our world.

Terrorism

Mr President,

Hardly a week goes by without an act of terrorism somewhere in our world assailing our senses. These murderous acts regardless of cause or grievance advanced by the perpetrators are utterly indefensible. Many innocent lives continue to be wasted with people killed or maimed and multitudes displaced by heinous acts designed to undermine and destabilize the collective efforts of the international community, to achieve peace and security for our societies.

Mr President,

Samoa condemns in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism and will continue to take actions and contribute our support to the campaign against it.

Besides terrorism, other scourges to world peace and the stability of our nations persist. The threat of weapons of mass destruction, poverty and hunger, environmental degradation, trafficking and smuggling of human beings, HIV/AIDs, malaria and tuberculosis are becoming perennial major threats to global security.

Mr President,

The campaign against terrorism can still be successful but not merely by force of arms. Preventing safe haven for terrorists and closing off their sources of finances, are just as crucial. But no less important is the necessity of addressing the root causes that feed terrorism.

No sensible administration or person would fail to be moved by the tragedy of Beslam and the humanitarian catastrophe of Dafur. The imperatives for action by our Organization and by the international community to address these events and their causes have been eloquently articulated by leaders who have spoken earlier from this rostrum. I wish only to remind and underscore that actions to bring solutions to these events and others like them must be done within the rule of law.

### **Iraq/Middle East**

On Iraq, Samoa deplores the daily violence that has killed and maimed so many people and the circumstances that have brought it about. We fully support the re-establishment of Iraq's sovereignty and pray for the success of a credible election process to create an Iraqi government with a popular mandate.

Likewise, we can only pray and hope that a workable solution will be found for the Israeli/Palestinian conflict soon before many more lives on both sides are lost.

### **Pacific Islands Forum**

**Mr President,**

Samoa hosted in our capital Apia the annual Pacific Islands Forum Summit of Leaders or the Pacific Islands Forum last month. As

current chair, I wish to inform the Assembly that the Pacific leaders again noted the dangers to the world of terrorism and to the Pacific region in particular of transnational crime, illicit drugs and the spread of assault small arms weapons. Consequently, the Pacific Islands Forum has strengthened cooperation in counter-terrorism measures as well as emphasized national efforts and regional cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and in building border control capacities.

The Pacific Islands Forum is also committed to collective arrangements and mechanisms to assist regional governments recover from national conflicts and crises. The success of these arrangements together with the support of the UN, are already evident in the positive results of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands. While much more remains to be done, the Solomon Islands is making good and steady progress, and the Forum will remain engaged in sustaining the mission.

Similarly, peace is achieved in Bougainville with elections for an autonomous Bougainville government to be held by the end of the year. The roles of the governments of Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand with the support of the Pacific Islands Forum, working together with the UN Observer Mission, in guiding Bougainville over this important period, is critical.

An important feature of the response mechanism put in place by the Pacific Islands Forum to assist regional governments, is its flexibility. The Pacific Islands Forum is now in the process of responding to a crisis in one of our member countries due to causes quite different to those in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville.

In recognition of good governance to economic growth and sustainable development, the Pacific Island's Forum has invited its members to become parties to the UN Convention against Corruption. In strengthening further the institutions of good

governance in Pacific nations, the important role of Non-State Actors (NSAs) and civil societies was highlighted by the Pacific leaders.

An issue that the Pacific Islands have brought to the attention of the United Nations over the years and remains relevant, not only for the Pacific, but very importantly, in advancing the cause of nuclear non-proliferation, is the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. The Pacific Forum has again called on the United States to ratify the Protocols to the Treaty.

Although our Pacific Islands Forum has been heavily engaged in overcoming crises that some of the regional governments are grappling with, several Pacific island nations, other than Australia and New Zealand, have nevertheless been contributing in ways we can to the United Nations peacekeeping efforts. For my own country, besides police we have committed to the Solomon Islands, we also provide police to the UN peacekeeping missions to Timor Leste and to Liberia.

Clearly, our small nations are trying hard to contribute to security and peace initiatives of the United Nations. However, the national obligations including reporting for the various conventions and UN resolutions on security and terrorism place an onerous burden on the infrastructure and administrative capacity of small states. We therefore seek the understanding of our Organization and encourage the appropriate UN bodies to explore innovative ways to help small states meet their commitments.

### **Small Island Developing States**

**Mr President,**

The challenges and the special needs of small island developing states are well-known as reflected in the Barbados Programme of

Action for Sustainable Development of SIDS, which has been in place for the last ten years. Sadly, the achievement of these goals despite the commitments made ten years ago at Barbados and at the 1999 mid-term review in this Hall, continue to elude us.

However it is our fervent hope that the International Meeting in Mauritius next January to comprehensively review the Barbados Program of Action will be the opportunity for the international community to give the political will and commitment of resources to allow our Small Island Developing nations to overcome the unique challenges we face.

The series of hurricanes that wrought massive devastation to island nations of the Caribbean and even the United States is a stark reminder of the extreme challenges faced by SIDS and their vulnerability to disasters. Our Pacific island nations including my own country know from bitter experience of cyclones that regularly batter our region of the disheartening effect of disasters in setting back in a matter of hours hard-earned development achievements of many years.

Mr President,

SIDS concerns and the vulnerability of our nations are therefore quite real. While we accept the primary responsibility for achieving the goals of the Program of Action, the reality is that the support of the international community is indispensable to success.

We therefore call on the United Nations system and the international community to provide the necessary support to complement ongoing and future programs as well as in the implementation and monitoring of the Mauritius outcomes for the sustainable development of SIDS.

Likewise, the importance of multilateral institutions such as the Global Environment Facility in this process cannot be overemphasized. We therefore urge GEF to apply their rules of access and to simplify their disbursement procedures in order to take into account the special circumstances of SIDS.

Trade is a vital component of sustainable development especially for small island developing States. We therefore continue to urge that the vulnerabilities of small States are taken into full account in the WTO negotiations particularly with regard to special and differential treatment for small economies.

### **Millennium Development Goals**

**Mr President,**

The review of the Millennium Development Goals next year provides an opportunity for the international community to take stock of progress and to identify remedial strategies and commitments for the further realization of these goals. Samoa remains committed to the achievement of the MDGs.

### **International Criminal Court**

**Mr President,**

The election of the second Deputy Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court just two weeks ago completes the full institutionalization of the Court. Samoa warmly welcomes the broad complement of judges and officers of the Court and adds its voice in urging other UN members to accede to the Rome Statute for the Establishment of the ICC. Given its role in upholding international humanitarian standards and in the protection of human rights, the Court deserves the support of the international community to give it the full universality it requires.

## UN Reform

Mr President,

We thank the Secretary-General and the previous President of the Assembly for their most commendable work in advancing the revitalization and reforms of the Organization.

To this end, Samoa supports fully the work of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and looks forward to its report at the end of the year.

We believe the outcomes of the UN reform should include the restoration of the primacy of the role of the General Assembly, and the attainment of a more effective and efficient Secretariat.

In particular, we support the enlargement of the Security Council and strongly recommend the inclusion of Japan as well as Germany to be permanent members.

Finally Mr President, I offer you my delegation's full support in the discharge of your numerous responsibilities and I wish you well in your presidency.

Thank you.