



STATEMENT

BY

**THE HONOURABLE S.R. INSANALLY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

AT THE

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Madame President
Mr. Secretary General
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just about a month ago, the people of Guyana went to the polls to vote for the Government of their choice. Witnessed by an unprecedented number of observers drawn from several countries and international organizations including the United Nations, the elections were deemed to be free, fair and transparent. With a renewed mandate, the Government led by President Bharrat Jagdeo, has recommitted itself to the pursuit of democratic governance at home and to a progressive foreign policy abroad.

I am pleased, on behalf of the Government and the people of Guyana to convey to you our warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this august Assembly. This distinction is a tribute not only to your own personal qualities but also to your gender since you are only the third woman to hold this high office in the history of the United Nations. I wish you much success during your term of office.

To your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson of Sweden, I would like to express our appreciation and thanks for directing the work of the Assembly this past year with considerable expertise and aplomb.

And to Secretary General Kofi Annan who demits his post later this year, I wish to offer our sincere gratitude for his impressive leadership of the United Nations Organisation during an uncertain and challenging period. He leaves with our best wishes for his future health and happiness.

Madame President, as a fledgling democracy, my country is proud to be part of the family of free nations. We are dedicated to the creation of a society based on equity and social justice that guarantees for all our citizens their fundamental freedoms and rights. To this end, we have enshrined in our Constitution - one of the most advanced in our hemisphere - provisions for the full enjoyment of these entitlements. In the same spirit, we have acceded to the many international treaties and conventions that embody agreements on the rights of peoples. Article 154A of our Constitution guarantees that "such rights embodied in these international instruments shall be respected and upheld by the executive,

legislature, judiciary and all organizations and agencies of Government." We are fully committed to international cooperation for global peace and development.

You, Madame President, are to be commended for proposing for discussion by this Assembly the topic of implementing the Global Partnership for Development. Ever since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has laboured to produce an effective development strategy. Decade after decade, several documents were laboriously drafted, only to be quickly relegated to the archives. It was not surprising therefore that countries, especially the developing states eventually became disillusioned that very little was achieved.

The World Hearings on Development which were held during Guyana's Presidency of the forty-eighth General Assembly, sought a new approach to the development problematique by bringing together all the relevant actors - distinguished world leaders, member Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society to analyse the deficiencies in international cooperation. A significant finding was that the development machinery, as presently structured, could not generate satisfactory results. The Development process, it was said, is managed almost entirely by the international financial institutions - not the United Nations and therefore did not respond fully to the needs of states which had little or no say in the decision-making of those institutions. Nor would tinkering with the machinery help since, without fundamental reform, there would be little change.

Following up on the promise of these hearings, the General Assembly proceeded in 1997 to elaborate an Agenda for Development. There could be no more comprehensive and compelling a document than this. Yet, it too was soon buried and forgotten. By the year 2000, the international community decided that enough was enough and that instead of forging yet another declaration it would set for itself certain precise and time-bound goals.

Madame President, our pursuit of these Millennium Development goals thus far has shown that while our efforts may indeed lift some countries out of poverty, significant and sustainable development will be achieved only through the international cooperation required in Goal 8. It is worthy of note that while there are clear measurements of progress on Goals 1 to 7, no well-defined indicators exist for Goal 8 - the Global Partnership for Development - an omission that clearly limits the effort at cooperation.

Madame President, distinguished delegates, if I have delved into the history of the development challenge, it is not to dwell on the past but rather, to draw from it lessons that may help us in the future to translate our long-held aspirations into

early reality. Allow me therefore to offer some thoughts on how the Global Partnership for Development may be strengthened.

As was determined at Monterrey, Mexico, partnership, coherence and accountability are vital to the fulfillment of our development goals. Without close and genuine cooperation between donors and recipients there is not likely to be significant progress. At the national level, countries should own their development strategies, while at the international level, there should be greater coordination and consistency of support in the trade, monetary and financial systems. Much too often it is the developing countries which are scrutinised and scolded for their short comings while their developed counterparts are considered above blame. True partnership requires mutual accountability. Accordingly, there should be some verification of donor pledges as well as periodic reviews of the performance of the partners.

Implementation of the Global Partnership would be greatly facilitated Madame President, if the task were to be seen in terms of mutual benefit and not of charity or obligation. Both sides must be involved in the decision-making process in all cooperation agreements. Such participation would produce a greater sense of ownership by the developing countries and consequently, a deeper sense of commitment to execution. At the recent World Bank/IMF Meeting which was held in Singapore, and chaired by the President of Guyana, the IMF's Managing Director is reported to have proposed a re-arrangement of the quotas that would enable developing countries to be more involved in decision-making. Although the change cannot be considered to be as comprehensive as possible, it is nonetheless a first step toward more democratic governance in the management of development.

Furthermore, Madame President, given the inadequacy of resources that have been available thus far to development, we must endeavour to identify, as we pledged in Monterrey, Mexico, new and additional sources of financing. The Millennium Challenge Account and the International Financing Facility have been welcome attempts to provide fresh funding. More latterly, at the initiative of France, Brazil and others, a tax has been proposed and - implemented by some countries - on air travel that promises high yields to support development. Similar proposals are on the table such as the Tobin Tax, a tax on pollution and low-elasticity commodities, among others. What is needed now is a serious evaluation of these suggestions to determine their feasibility for implementation by the international community.

Implementation of the Global Partnership undoubtedly suffers from the "beggar thy neighbour attitude" which exists in international economic and trade negotiations. As evidenced in the recent Doha Round negotiations, the

predominant interests of the developed countries in such areas as agriculture, subsidies and services have effectively denied developing nations particularly the small and vulnerable, any prospect of significant participation in the global economy. Without expanded trade opportunities, investment and a comprehensive framework of support, development for many will continue to be elusive. We need therefore to ensure that the Doha Round is revived and broad assistance provided to serve the purposes of development.

Madame President, an increasingly formidable challenge to implementing the development agenda is the spread of trans-boundary crime, including arms and drug-trafficking. As a result of this nefarious trade, crime has reached new and alarming levels and effectively cripples economic growth. Governments can ill afford the resources needed to fight the drug lords who are themselves endowed with considerable assets and artillery. Unfortunately, whatever assistance is provided by donor countries and relevant agencies is woefully inadequate to stem the onslaught. This growing insurgency can be counteracted only by a greater determination of the United Nations system to collaborate fully to crush trans-boundary crime. Our developed partners therefore need to do more to assist in the fight against this rampant scourge.

Madame President, perhaps the most serious inhibitor to economic growth and social progress is the currently unsettled international political climate in which recourse to conflict is seen as a ready means of settling international issues. The egregious examples of Iraq and Lebanon, where force has been used to achieve political aims and objectives, have clearly shown that violence solves nothing. Indeed, the havoc and destruction wrought by war seriously diminish the prospects for development whether it be in the Middle East or elsewhere. The Agenda for Peace cannot be implemented without due regard to the Agenda for Development.

The Government of Guyana has long been persuaded of the need for a New Global Human Economic and Social Order that is capable of delivering true democracy and social justice to all peoples. First posited by the late Dr. Cheddi Jagan, former President of Guyana, in 1994 at the World Summit on Social Development, the concept is premised on a comprehensive and holistic approach to development in order to achieve more inclusive economic and social progress. The NGHO, which is already before this organization and has been supported by many member states, seeks to create a consensus on a new model of development that would be based on a genuine partnership among states and a joint endeavour to secure peace and prosperity for all.

Madame President, no less formidable and challenging to the Development Agenda than the international political and economic environment is the fragile

ecosystem in which we now live. Witness the increasing number of earthquakes, floods, tropical storms and hurricanes which cause catastrophic damage wherever they occur. Less than two years ago, my own country was struck by a flood resulting in damage amounting to 60% of our GDP. It would be foolish and perhaps fatal were we not to prepare ourselves to anticipate and withstand such disasters. Early warning systems should be established across the globe and financial resources made available to the United Nations to facilitate early responses and recovery. Disaster mitigation should in short now become an integral part of our partnership's agenda.

Experience would have taught us, Madame President, that development is a complex and complicated phenomenon and that the many challenges we now face are such that they cannot be overcome without full international cooperation. Yet our responses continue to be woefully ad hoc and inadequate to the resolution of the problems we confront. The Development Agenda has now become more extensive and urgent. With courage and vision, we must renew our commitment to the implementation of the Global Partnership for Development. Common humanity and a sense of morality demand no less.

I thank you, Madame President.