



SOLOMON ISLANDS

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Co-Presidents,

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to the government and people of the United States for the tragic loss of life and property resulting from the recent hurricane in the Gulf States.

Allow me, Co-Presidents, to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 60th United Nations General Assembly. Solomon Islands wish to assure you of our support during your term in office. I wish to also register through you, my delegation's sincere appreciation to the outgoing President, the Honourable Jean Ping, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, who has worked tirelessly with all members of this august body in addressing our fears and charting the future direction of this organization.

Co-Presidents,

Twenty seven years ago, Solomon Islands joined this noble institution, believing in the principles and values it stands for. Unfortunately, this institution has not reconciled itself with the ever-changing environment. Countries such as Solomon Islands have slipped from a developing to a least developed and recently, into a vulnerable state.

As a country from a region identified as off track in terms of meeting its MDGs, my delegation is positive that this summit will revitalize our efforts toward achieving these goals.

Co-Presidents,

Development remains the most important pillar in the Outcome Document. Poverty reduction and socio- economic growth are achievable if global partnership is focused on the weak and vulnerable members of the United Nations. It is the sick that needs the doctor. In this case, it is the most vulnerable countries that should be the focus of all UN programmes. The growing number of LDCs indicates the world has taken a complex approach in dealing with the basic needs of the poorest of the poor. The Outcome Document shows that various development frameworks remain unsatisfactorily implemented. The Mauritius Strategy recently adopted by the General Assembly, as well as the upcoming review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs, provides an opportunity to kick-start and re-define future cooperation between states with renewed commitment.

The MDGs are multidimensional, multisectoral and interdependent. These goals cannot be unilaterally achieved. A genuine partnership between developed and developing countries is key to achieving these goals. With the assistance of our development partners, Solomon Islands is working towards achieving, amongst other Millennium Development Goals: universal primary education, improved maternal health, better sanitation and clean water supply, and eradication of malaria.

Co-President,

More than 90% of today's conflicts occur within states - more than half originate from least developed countries. Solomon Islands welcomes the establishment of the Peace Building Council. The Australian led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, commonly referred to as RAMSI!, represents a North-South and South-South cooperation. The RAMSI's success in creating a conducive environment for peace, has given the opportunity for our people to rebuild their lives and foster a secure and peaceful future.

Co-Presidents,

Solomon Islands is committed to address past harmful economic policies, including the lack of fiscal discipline and good governance. The country requires human and physical capital to raise productivity and achieve sustained growth. In order to attract and build capital, my government is initiating a strategy to establish a stable macroeconomic environment. This includes creating a friendly tax, regulatory regimes and improving infrastructure.

Solomon Islands debt level remains crippling. Work is under way to develop a comprehensive debt strategy. Meanwhile, we welcome the proposal by the President of Philippines to have debts converted into MDG projects. Solomon Islands calls on the IMF and the World Bank to further explore this proposal.

Co-Presidents,

Over the years, Solomon Islands has consistently called for Security Council reforms. The Council must be more representative, democratic, transparent and accountable. It should also reflect the current geopolitical realities. After years of debate, we understand how difficult it is to get a consensus on this matter. It is our hope that the expansion of the Security Council will ensure a stronger focus on matters of interests to small islands developing states. Solomon Islands supports Japan, Germany, India, and Brazil's bid for permanent seats within the Council.

Co-Presidents,

Much has been said about the challenges and opportunities of globalization. While terrorism remains a global concern, the UN must continue to address its development agenda. In this regard, the Doha Development Round should offer concrete proposals for all states including the LDCs.

Co-Presidents,

It is unfortunate that the United Nations continues to deny the rights of the 23 million people of the Republic of China to have a voice in this forum. Taiwan is a major player in the international system and should be accorded due recognition as a full and equal member of the UN family. Solomon Islands enjoys a productive and vibrant relations with the Republic of China.

Co-Presidents,

Solomon Islands calls on the UN to address threats in the China Strait. My delegation feels that Preventive Diplomacy must dictate the action of the international community. Therefore, we must be proactive and responsible. Failure to act will undermine the credibility of the UN.

In closing, Co-Presidents, this is the moment for us to ensure the Millennium Development Goals are fully implemented. As leaders, much is expected of us. We are duty bound to create a world that is peaceful, prosperous and just — a world that we can confidently guarantee a brighter future for our children. The Outcome Document has something for everyone. The challenge is, to translate our commitments into actions; least history will judge us harshly.

I thank you, Co-Presidents.