



Statement  
By

H. E. Mr. Ramdien Sardjoe  
Vice President  
of the Republic of Suriname

ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 25 September 2009

*Please check against delivery*

Your Excellency Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the General Assembly  
Your Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of my delegation I congratulate you on your election as President of the Sixty-fourth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. I am sure that your wisdom and experience will guide us as we address the challenges on the global agenda.

I would like to acknowledge the important work of your predecessor His Excellency, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. He has led the Assembly's Sixty-third session through complex discussions and extensive consultations guided by responsibility and good faith.

I also take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General and his staff for their continued dedication in overseeing the ongoing efforts for improving the working methods of the organization and its interaction with member states.

## **RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CRISES THROUGH EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM**

Mr. President,

The world continues to face many challenges, both traditional and new ones. Whilst traditional challenges to international peace and security persist, we also have to cope with non-traditional threats such as:

- pervasive poverty
- deadly diseases
- increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters
- and environmental degradation.

Added to those challenges are the energy, food, financial and economic crises, all of which are hampering the realization of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

The growing interdependence in today's world only strengthens the understanding that current challenges transcend national borders and therefore require concerted action and responses from the international community.

The United Nations therefore remains the central forum for addressing global issues and we continue to advocate for effective multilateralism not as an option but as a mere necessity.

In this regard we deem it indispensable for the United Nations to continue with the reform efforts of the Organization. This should include meaningful reform of the Security Council, to make it more effective and responsive to today's challenging world.

Of equal importance is strengthened cooperation within and between regional groups. We should continue to promote and pursue intensified channels of political dialogue between regional groups in reaffirming our shared commitment to multilateralism.

In this spirit, my country participates in regional and bi-regional endeavors to strengthen political, economic, cultural and social cooperation and integration.

I would like to commend and emphasize the role of the United Nations as an effective instrument, in advancing multilateralism by strengthening its consultation and coordination with regional organizations.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. President,

The urgency of the threat posed by climate change requires the same multilateral engagement, as demonstrated in areas as broad as:

- the fight against the uncontrolled spread of illicit small arms and light weapons
- the fight against international terrorism
- HIV/AIDS
- peacekeeping and peace building
- the advancement of women
- and human rights.

We express our appreciation to the Secretary – General for convening the recent Summit on Climate Change to garner the necessary political support to “seal the deal” in Copenhagen.

Suriname expects an agreement in Copenhagen with ambitious mitigation and adaptation targets. We expect commitments necessary to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in appropriate quantities and support to adaptation in developing countries. Countries that are historically responsible for the emission of the current amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere should take the lead in this regard.

In the spirit of common but differentiated responsibilities, we look forward to appropriate mitigation efforts of developing countries. As a High Forest Low Deforestation country, Suriname will continue to undertake efforts to manage its forests sustainably. Through this we aim to keep and improve the climate stabilizing value of our standing forest.

We attach great importance to the inclusion of a future forest carbon mitigation regime that provides positive incentives to HFLD countries.

In this regard we call your attention to the report of the informal working group on interim finance for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). This report estimates that, if financing of 15 to 25 billion Euros were available for the 2010-2015 period for REDD+ efforts, a 25 per cent reduction in annual global deforestation rates is achievable by 2015.

In this regard we call upon institutions and fellow member states to support UN REDD+ in recognition of the beneficial potential of tropical forests in mitigating climate change.

## **SURINAME AND THE DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS**

Mr. President,

Suriname has emphasized its support for the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace on various international fora. In particular through the full implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, Program of Action as well as the Declaration and Program of Action on Culture of Peace.

Our democracy could serve as an illustration of our quest for peace, security and development. Various ethnic groups with different multi-cultural background and religious traditions have come a long way in coexisting and cooperating in a harmonious and peaceful way.

This engagement is reflected in the political representation of our administration. It is within this atmosphere of democratic values, of high levels of religious and ethnic tolerance, that we are building a society that can prosper and engage with the region and with the world beyond.

In order to achieve international peace, security and development, cooperation should be based upon constructive and respectful dialogue. This dialogue should be guided by a spirit of tolerance, acceptance and trust among religions, peoples and cultures. Only with mutual trust and understanding will we be able to overcome international tensions.

## **EDUCATION**

The Secretary General recently emphasized the importance of education for development. Education has always been the foundation for economic opportunity and prosperity. Knowledge and advanced skills are critical tools to enhance every country's economic potential, growth and standard of living.

This is why we have to join efforts in improving the capacity of countries to adopt, disseminate and maximize technological advances. Improved international cooperation towards creating better educational systems will help developing countries progress faster towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Particularly those related to all levels of education, health and gender equality.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS/INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The promotion and protection of human rights are amongst the most effective strategies for eliminating inequalities between social groups and within and between countries. Consequently Suriname remains committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights.

With regard to what is famously called "*the supreme international crime*" namely, "*the crime of aggression*", Suriname expresses the hope that a decision on the elements of crime will be promptly taken. The upcoming Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to be held in Uganda next year should therefore seriously address this issue.

## **CLOSURE**

Mr. President,

For over sixty years the United Nations was able to build confidence and understanding between member states and help keep global peace.

My delegation reiterates its commitment towards development, respect for human rights and international peace and security. We will continue to engage in constructive dialogue aimed at contributing to a better future for all.

Thank you Mr. President.