



**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MR. JEAN-PAUL ADAM**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

**AT THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Please check against delivery

Your Excellency President of the General Assembly

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the United Nations,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I take the opportunity to join those that have come before me in congratulating H.E Dr. Joseph Deiss on his election as President of our Assembly, and on his diligent stewardship of proceedings thus far. I also thank and congratulate H.E Mr. Ali Abdulsalam Treki, for his leadership and drive at the head of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly.

## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS- RESETTING THE DEVELOPMENT DEBATE**

Mr. President, we spent the first three days last week debating the progress made – or not made- as the case may be – in attaining the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. For many of us, there are still formidable struggles ahead. For Seychelles, while we have made huge strides forward to meet the goals, we are pedaling furiously so as not to slip back on what we have already worked hard to achieve.

This brings to mind the question: are the MDGs an end in themselves? It does not end in 2015. It cannot end in 2015. What happens, and where are we headed after that?

Those of us who are middle income countries and that includes many small island developing states, already know the different set of challenges that these questions bring, questions which other countries will also have to face as they achieve and move beyond the MDGs.

The debate needs to start now, as we fast approach 2015, on how countries will access the affordable financing they will need to not just move beyond the MDGs, but ensure they keep and not fall back on what they have achieved.

This is why Seychelles announced at the MDG Summit that we will be engaging with the UN system to enter into new commitments towards setting MDG Plus targets, the overall objective being to make sustainable development a reality beyond the Millennium Development Goals and the next generation.

## **ROLE OF THE UN – FINANCING DEVELOPMENT**

We are all aware of the differences among us in our sizes and populations. The needs of all members of the UN are different. We have learnt a lot about development over the years, and today we all know that 'one size fits all' does not work.

At the UN and in other developmental organizations, we have developed development categories to facilitate the access of those most in need to resources. Resources are always stretched. And as we move beyond 2015, we must make sure that development categories do truly facilitate development. Development categories must not become a means to punish those who succeed in development.

And we must not allow Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be lost in the spaces in between the categories.

Middle income SIDS face special problems which the international development architecture currently does not make provision for.

Funding that is available to SIDS is fragmented. There is no **reliable** funding available to SIDS. Even on issues where SIDS are most affected, such as climate change, there are many barriers to us being able to access funding, not least, the use of GDP per capita criteria to define eligibility for funding.

The question that will come up increasingly as we try to answer the question of how to fund development beyond 2015, is where can SIDS go to finance their development?

And the answer to the question is that we need to define a specific developmental category for SIDS to be used by ALL development partners.

## **MSI REVIEW**

This is why small island developing states say let's start at home by requesting the United Nations Secretary-General to initiate a system-wide review of how effectively the UN and its various agencies are actually supporting SIDS and how this can be improved. This could be done by an inter-agency working group that would provide concrete recommendations to this very 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA as to how the United Nations system could better support the specific needs of SIDS.

The world economic and financial crisis has reinforced the vulnerabilities of island states to external shocks. More than ever it has illustrated that islands need as much support as possible to be able to pursue development successfully.

## **INNOVATIVE FINANCING- NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. President,

As I have already highlighted, there are gaps in the existing development system. These gaps mean we must be prepared to be innovative to meet the development challenges which are looming.

We welcome the efforts of several countries and also the UN Secretary General to adopt new and innovative means for financing development.

In Seychelles, the pressures of the food, fuel and financial crises meant that in 2008 we had to engage in a wide-ranging macro-economic reform with the support of the Bretton Woods institutions, the ADB and our Paris Club creditors. We are most grateful to all our partners for their support.

I think it is interesting to note that while we were restructuring our 'old' debt, our economy has begun to grow thanks to 'new' FDI- most of it coming from the developing world- the Gulf, Africa and Asia. There are many new channels for development which remain relatively unexplored and unstructured.

I would also like to brief you on a groundbreaking renewable energy project being undertaken in Seychelles with the support of the United Arab Emirates government. This project is an example of how a small island can access affordable financing to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels- one of the things that make islands very vulnerable.

These South-South dynamics are often overlooked in the traditional dynamics of the United Nations. Often also we waste a lot of time on ideological debates which further obscure the true objectives of development.

We need to be pragmatic. And we need to act.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. President, Climate change and in particular sea level rise, remain by far the greatest threat to small islands.

Much more ambitious global actions need to be taken to significantly reduce emissions and implement adaptation in a manner that will ensure the development aspirations and survival of all countries- but particularly small islands.

We need to make sure that fast start funding is also available for disbursement as quickly as possible. I must stress the concern of small islands that much of the funding available to adapt to climate change is being channeled through traditional funding channels. This means that most SIDS will miss out on funds because of our middle income status. Climate change requires funding mechanisms which do not just rely on 'business as usual'.

## **ROLE OF THE UN – PEACE AND SECURITY**

Mr. President,

While we reflect on the governance of the United Nations, we must also spare no effort to ensure that we can be effective in resolving conflict in those areas where human suffering is at its worst.

In the horn of Africa, we remain deeply concerned about the ongoing situation in Somalia. We convey our solidarity to the Somali people and the transitional government that is trying to restore peace and security. We fully support the efforts of the African Union through AMISOM and also the United Nations. It is clear however, that we must now be prepared to move beyond what we have already tried.

The ongoing problems associated with the situation in Somalia are unfortunately also continuing to hamper the conditions for development in the region. The threat of terrorism is rising. While the scourge of piracy continues to spread further afield- as far East as the Maldives, as far South as Madagascar.

Seychelles has worked hard to ensure that our maritime zones remain safe and we thank all our partners for their support. Nonetheless, piracy has led to direct losses in our economy of over 4% of GDP. We welcome the new regional project on piracy being developed by the Indian Ocean Commission and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa with the support of the European Union.

This project approaches the problem from several angles simultaneously as we attempt to strengthen the regional capacity for patrols and surveillance, strengthen the legal and judicial capacity of our countries and also mitigate the negative effects on our economies.

I would like to thank our friends and neighbours on their support on this issue. It is an issue which depends on all countries working together both from within the region and beyond. We must also continue to engage with Somalia to strengthen their ability to build their own institutions.

Mr. President, Seychelles also strongly believes that the international community must strengthen its efforts to tackle transnational crimes that are often linked to instability and insecurity- from money laundering to people trafficking.

In the Indian Ocean region, we are determined to work with all partners to ensure that we can address these issues effectively.

## **CONCLUSION**

Mr. President

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are all part of the United Nations because we believe that we must work together to achieve development. Development is a collaborative process.

We need to strengthen this collaboration. We need to make more efforts to ensure that there is more innovative financing to fund development. We need to be more pragmatic in our approach.

We know it will not be easy. But this strengthens our resolve.

We are ready to move forward- together.

I thank you for your attention.