



Permanent Mission of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

THE HONORABLE SAM CONDOR

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

OF THE FEDERATION OF ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SATURDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2011
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK, NY

Please check against delivery

**Statement by the Honorable Sam T. Condor
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis
To the General Debate of the
66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

I wish on behalf of the Government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis to thank you for the honor of addressing this General Assembly.

Indeed I extend on their behalf sincere congratulations to you **Mr. Nassir Abdul-Aziz Al-Nasser**, on your election to the Presidency of this the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

My delegation also wishes to thank Mr. Joseph Deiss President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly for his leadership during a very busy and demanding session.

Mr. President, your tenure coincides with a time when there is on the Assembly's Agenda, a confluence of global issues, which have particular relevance for the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean.

Most delegations have recently participated, for example, in:

- The UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, this past June
- The UN high Level Meeting on Youth in July and
- The UN High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases, a few days ago

The convening of these meetings gives ample acknowledgement of the challenges that we still face in our relentless pursuit of a healthier world, of the pivotal role of health and of social cohesion, as vehicles of National and Global development.

Yours is the awesome responsibility, Mr. President, to pilot us through follow-up actions from these weighty deliberations. My Delegation is confident of your capacity and experience, for the required leadership; and assures you of our fullest support.

Theme: Mediation

Mr. President, you have declared your theme for the Session: "**The Role of Mediation in the Settlement of Disputes by Peaceful Means**". Certainly, my delegation supports the pacific

settlement of disputes, and we likewise, acknowledge mediation as a preferred vehicle in preventing or settling conflicts.

In this endeavor, our Small Island Caribbean States would wish to be engaged in the support mechanisms, in tangible ways, such as are already laid out in the provisions of such landmark Resolutions, as UNGA 1540 (2004), which addresses the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The people of my country/ my region, have great respect for the idealism that gave life to this all important Organization. Our ideals are indeed synchronous with those of the UN System; and our expectations are assuredly, no less Stately than those of large and powerful Nations.

At a time such as this, the United Nations must show its unifying character, in assuring that all Member States are equipped to play a part in the maintenance of International Peace and Security; and in the '*building up of one another*'. We are our Brother's Keeper!

Mr. President, in today's global community, we must rely heavily on collective actions and solid partnerships, if we are to overcome the many common challenges which we face. Among these challenges are the misguided or ill-considered choices that are made by too many of our Youth.

Youth

A critical and defining aspect of my country's future, and indeed a prospect that would largely define tomorrow's world, is our Youth. It is therefore worthy of my mention, that Youth Violence has attained epidemic proportions in the Caribbean. We appreciate that Youth Violence is invariably symptomatic of deeper *individual, community and societal issues*; and that a multi-sectoral, integrated approach is required, in redressing this problem.

At the National and Regional levels, CARICOM States are actively grappling with this challenge and we are pleased to have participated in the discussions on this topic, at the recent U N High Level Meeting. There is need however, to reinforce, that there is a role for relevant UN Agencies, in supporting our efforts at reversing this bothersome trend of Youth Violence, with its implications for many critical sectors, inclusive of security, health and development.

Accordingly, we would be heightening our engagement with WHO, UNHABITAT, UNICEF and other relevant UN and International Development Agencies, in this endeavor.

The challenge of Youth Violence, Mr. President, is also linked to some extent, to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Small Arms and Light Weapons.

While my country acknowledges the strides made in our Region with respect to small arms and light weapons, through the recent adoption of the CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons, there is still a long way to go. .

It is imperative therefore Mr. President, that we work together to bring a solution-focused approach, to this problem of easy access to small arms and light weapons in our countries. CARICOM here calls for an Arms Trade Treaty. Related to this challenge is the issue of Human Security and Development.

Human Security and Development

Mr. President, my country is committed to working diligently at the National and Regional level, and to collaborate internationally, to improve the lives of our people.

St. Kitts- Nevis is a relatively small country; and it is usually the small and vulnerable that is most severely impacted when global shocks and crises occur. That is why as a region, we promote collective action to enhance our resilience, promote human security, lessen our vulnerability and build stronger economies. Such has been widely acclaimed, best practice approach, with regard to HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS

St. Kitts and Nevis applauds the General Assembly for convening the High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS has collaborated with the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP); in keeping with its commitment to support countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and also in ensuring that HIV Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support services are provided to all in need.

The agenda is still a full one; and the challenge, no less daunting than it was ten years ago, in a region with the second highest global prevalence rate of HIV. We thus anticipate and encourage the continued support of UNAIDS and other Health and Development agencies.

Non- Communicable Diseases

With regard to Non-Communicable diseases, Mr. President, the Caribbean can be justly proud that the initiatives in the Port of Spain Declaration (2007): *Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic NCDs*, which arose out of the first ever Heads of Government Summit on NCDs, has resonated across the globe, resulting in the just concluded UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on NCDs with a consensus to launch an International Wellness revolution.

Non Communicable Diseases, are to a large extent preventable. Hence it is essential that the outcome-document from the UN High Level Meeting, mirrors many of the chief concerns of the Port of Spain Declaration, aimed at encouraging governments and the private sector to

collaborate on increasing avenues, for exercise, healthy diets and smoke free zones for the benefit of the general public.

The long term reduction in the enormous costs of treatment of heart failure, diabetes hypertension, and the resulting 60-70 percent mortality rates from NCDs, are worth the investment in protecting vital human- capital and the development of our various Regions.

I am proud Mr. President, that the Government of St Kitts and Nevis, has the lead responsibility for Human Resource, Health and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean Community, and continues to play a pioneering role.

We recognize the urgent need to make good on pledges, resulting from the UN High Level Meeting: this can only augur well for a future in which due recognition must be given to the role of Health in overall development.

UNCSD

Mr. President, it would be remiss of me, not to highlight the significance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). In June of next year; during this 66th General Assembly, all eyes will be on Rio's deliberations aimed at achieving convergence on the social, environmental and economic dimensions of Sustainable Development. I fully support the main objective of the Conference, in securing political commitment. This is the critical factor for success throughout the Rio+20 processes and beyond.

Small Island Developing States

St. Kitts and Nevis is one of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) referred to in chapter 17 of Agenda 21. Throughout the last twenty years, the International Community has made tremendous strides in addressing SIDS challenges to Sustainable Development. Regrettably, many an encouraging step forward, has been offset by painful setbacks.

The effect of climate change is a bane that is felt on a daily basis in St. Kitts and Nevis, as in other Islands. The question is no longer "if" and "how"; but rather "when" and "by how much" we will be affected. We need desperately to upgrade pre-emptive measures, to counter the imminent threat of climate change.

A defined strategy to aggressively promote Climate Financing is highly recommended. This is going to be vital, if our countries are to successfully address the effects of climate change, without tapping into already limited and depleted resources.

My delegation encourages other Member States to join the call for the full implementation of Climate Financing.

Support to Members of the International Community

In addition to pursuing outcomes that benefit all States, my delegation would like to highlight certain challenges that some members of the International Community face, with which the UN General Assembly can assist. I speak Mr. President of Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba and Taiwan.

Haiti

We must ever remember Haiti, one of CARICOM's most populous Member States. We should remain acutely aware of Haiti's trials and struggles against natural and manmade catastrophic events, unsettling social and political vicissitudes, and economic hardships. Their effects have set Haiti many years behind, compared to the rate of development of other Nations in the Region.

As such, we encourage the fulfilling of the many goodwill pledges that have been made for assistance in its reconstruction efforts.

Antigua and Barbuda

Another CARICOM member state Antigua and Barbuda continues to be locked in an underdog struggle to benefit from its success before the WTO Dispute Settlement Body. We again urge a speedy, fair and just Resolution to this Gaming dispute.

Cuba

Within the Caribbean also, Mr. President, the people of our sister nation, Cuba, continue to endure much hardship as the consequence of a fifty-year-old commercial, economic, and financial embargo. This Assembly and the International Community has consistently called for the lifting of the said embargo.

Our country reiterates its call, and the call of regional neighbors and the International Community, particularly the UN General Assembly, for a speedy redress of this matter.

Taiwan

Mr. President, since 2009, Taiwan has been invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to attend the annual World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer. This practice and the related arrangements have established what has been termed the (WHA) model, "which sets a useful precedent for Taiwan's greater participation in the UN System.

It is the view of my country, Mr. President, that in today's highly integrated and interconnected world, almost all issues demand full participation by and cooperation among International Partners. As one of the leading economic and technological powerhouses in the world, Taiwan can contribute substantially to the International Community.

We therefore urge the United Nations to find a suitable way to allow for Taiwan's meaningful participation in its specialized agencies and mechanisms, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Closing

Mr. President, I have presented some of the challenges which we encounter as a country and Region; challenges to which this Assembly has itself given prominence. I have also given consideration to some of the aspirations that we have for this 66th UNGA and beyond. They are issues which demand the collective inputs and interventions.

We are all part of the Global Community; and problems that permeate our tightly woven fabric, invariably spread to affect us all in some way or another.

It is incumbent upon us all therefore, to ensure that the results of our collective enterprise and diligence, allow for the realization of our desired goals. Surely, working together with purpose and integrity ensures that we rise on the same tide.

Let us rise together!!!

May it please you Mr. President.

END OF STATEMENT
