

STATEMENT BY

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Mr. President,

The world is living through unprecedented times. The challenges of an economic crisis now loom large.

All nations, developed and developing, face growing uncertainties about economic prospects.

Serious concerns about the global economy arise just after global prosperity had reached heights never reached before in history.

A second paradox is that the countries which may be more seriously impacted by the crisis are those who contributed the least to the root causes of the crisis.

As fall out of the crisis threatens to impact more significantly, already vulnerable Small Island States, many of these island states are also facing a major threat of a different nature.

This threat is an existential one.

As with the economic crisis, the countries which may be severely impacted by Climate Change are those which have contributed the least to the root causes of Climate Change.

Many SIDS thus face the dual threat of the impact of the worsening economies of their trading and development partners as well as that of Climate Change.

As already vulnerable nations face greater threats at the international level, so do more vulnerable groups face greater difficulties within nations. Young people are faced with higher levels of unemployment; women and children are faced with reduced access to public services, health and education.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon speaking at the latest G20 meeting put food and nutrition security at the top of the agenda.

Meeting the energy needs for development is a major concern.

Recent meetings convened by ECOSOC have again highlighted other major concerns including structural unemployment, rising inequality and poverty eradication.

Many countries both developing and developed are facing a major challenge with respect to youth unemployment. Improving access to education and tackling the mismatch between qualifications and employment are now a top policy goal.

The world cannot let down its young people and must give the youth an opportunity to contribute to economic recovery and prosperity.

What we do for the youth and what the youth can do for the world they will inherit will shape the economic future of our world.

As all nations work towards promoting sustainable development, more equitable and inclusive growth, the fight against corruption, greater accountability, more transparency and a general culture of integrity remain essential components of governance required to achieve our goals.

Mauritius affirms that along with initiatives to revisit development objectives, reform of the international financial architecture and Global Economic Governance must remain a top priority.

Mauritius strongly supports the view that the present economic crisis is of a global nature and that the solutions for an inclusive green growth also need to be global in nature.

The inconclusive talks of the Doha Round and of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change both stem from a historical divide which regrettably resurfaces from time to time and specially at a time when global solutions are, more than ever, necessary.

The debate over good economic and fiscal governance at national level will always remain valid and necessary but however sound such domestic policies may be, the global environment will impact on growth and development especially of developing countries and smaller economies.

Thirty two years ago, the Independent Commission on International Development Issues reporting in 1980, highlighted the interdependence of developing and developed economies and the mutuality of interests. The report explained how all nations will benefit from a strengthened global economy.

As the world faces another crisis all nations should remind themselves of how much interdependence has grown since the Brandt report and of the interconnection and mutuality of interests in the development agenda.

In this context, nations must resist protectionist measures as an easy way out. This can only be detrimental in the medium and long term.

The Committee on Development Policy in its July 2012 report called for a “Transformative Agenda to Development”.

The international community must pledge its support for a transformative agenda based on the recognition that globally coordinated solutions are necessary to accompany sound domestic policies.

It is imperative that the General Assembly of the United Nations with its preeminent universal membership plays a crucial role in the debate for globally coordinated solutions.

We reaffirm our support for a revitalized ECOSOC which should effectively have the role and function attributed to it by the Charter. In this context, we also welcome the reaffirmation of the mandate of UNCTAD at Doha. UNCTAD must continue to serve as the focal point of the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

As the world is engaged in the debate on global solutions, we must promote more economic exchanges among developing nations. Regional integration and cooperation are key to future development. Trade and investment must also be accompanied by greater regional cooperation in pooling of resources and provision of public goods. Pooling entails more economies of scale and makes it less costly to acquire technology.

One area where regional cooperation can make a significant contribution is the energy sector. Pooling resources and coordinating policies at regional level and amongst groups of developing countries with common requirements can facilitate the development of technology and implementation of renewable energies.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of UNCLOS, let us remind ourselves of the enormous potential of the oceans as an engine for growth and promote international cooperation in a vast collective effort to tap this potential. There is potential not only with respect to food and mineral resources but also transport, leisure and advancement of science.

We welcome the reaffirmation by world leaders at Rio de Janeiro that Small Island Developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. We expect that the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS will be followed by concrete actions.

It is imperative that SIDS issues be more effectively mainstreamed across all UN organisations and that a dedicated and clearly identified focal point be set up within every UN entity dealing with SIDS issues. The SIDS Unit within UNDESA should be strengthened to enable it to provide coordinated support for SIDS.

Mr. President,

Mauritius joins other world leaders who have called on all countries to deliver on their commitments. The international community cannot spend so much capital on negotiating new pledges and undertakings in a whole array of outcome documents and then ignore what has been agreed through give and take on all sides. We can only move forward if past commitments are honoured.

We welcome the setting up of the Sustainable Development Committee to follow up on Rio+20 and formulate Sustainable Development Goals. We also welcome the appointment of a High Level Panel on Post 2015 Development Agenda. These and others should be able to build on what has already been agreed through global negotiations.

Mr. President,

I must say that our hearts go out to the people of Syria who are enduring the consequences of a severe humanitarian crisis as there is no prospect in sight of a resolution of the political struggle. The international community cannot remain indifferent to such suffering.

The world cannot also remain indifferent to the suffering of the Palestinian people without a universally recognized State and facing severe economic hardships and insecurity.

These challenges will test the credibility and moral authority of the international system.

I must also say, Mr. President, that whilst we have the utmost respect for all faiths and religion, we strongly believe that there is no justification for violence, however serious is the outrage at religious vilification.

We also support the fundamental principle of protection of diplomats and diplomatic premises, which is at the core of interaction between nations and we call on all members of the comity of nations to fully respect this principle.

We also call on the international community to support the full implementation of the road map in our neighboring State of Madagascar and to provide the transition government with the means to ensure a speedy return to constitutional rule and democracy in this great country.

Mr. President,

Mauritius very much welcomes the high level meeting on Rule of Law. Development and greater economic prosperity go hand in hand with enhanced rule of law at both national and international levels. There will be no meaningful

Rule of law at international level until and unless all nations and specially the small ones can have avenues for resolving their disputes with other States.

The United Kingdom excised part of Mauritian territory prior to independence and has refused to enter into talks in good faith over this dispute and has ensured that the dispute cannot be determined by the International Court of Justice.

Thus, the decolonization of Africa has not been completed.

At a time when the United Nations debates Rule of law at both national and international levels we urge the international community to work on machinery that enables States, whatever their size or economic power, to have judicial or other peaceful means of resolving disputes.

Rule of law at international level cannot only be normative. There must also be adequate enforcement mechanisms without which there is no meaningful rule of law.

The full realization of the territorial integrity of Mauritius also requires a settlement which enables us to effectively assert our sovereignty over Tromelin. We look forward to continued dialogue with France in a spirit of mutual cooperation.

Monsieur le Président,

Les défis auxquels nos pays font face actuellement appellent à une solidarité exemplaire de la communauté des nations. L'intérêt commun doit guider les actions de tous. Les uns ne s'en sortiront pas sans les autres. Il faut donc que tous les gouvernements, la société civile, les chercheurs, les entrepreneurs, prennent conscience de l'interdépendance des économies et travaillent ensemble pour le bien de toutes les nations. Il y a souvent en temps de crise le risque d'un repli sur soi et la sauvegarde de ce qu'on considère être ses propres intérêts. Mais en fait les vraies solutions sont collectives. La reprise globale servira les intérêts de tous les Etats.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.
