



STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. DANNY FAURE
VICE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 SEPTEMBER 2012

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK

Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly, H.E Mr. Vuk Jeremic
Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations
Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

In the modern world the pace of change, whether political, social or economic, challenges our ability to react in a constructive, sustainable and just manner.

And in the face of change- the role of the General Assembly becomes even more important, as the President of the General Assembly has reminded us.

We look to the United Nations- our United Nations and our General Assembly- to help us find the common ground needed for the resolution of the big questions of our age. We can truly be a G193, as our President has previously remarked.

As an oceanic island nation- Seychelles understand intrinsically that the development of our region depends on being able to defuse conflict and tension through diplomacy, as well as defining a framework to properly share all the opportunity that our ocean offers us.

In the Indian Ocean, we are particularly concerned with two issues that challenge the proper application of the rule of law in a sustainable manner: the continued challenge of maritime piracy, and the resolution of the political crisis in Madagascar.

PIRACY

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Piracy fundamentally alters our relationship with our ocean. Piracy instils fear and uncertainty.

We have two compatriots still being held captive in Somalia- and as long as they remain separated from their families- our ocean represents risk for our nation rather than the opportunity that it should.

Establishing the rule of law in Somalia is obviously the only true long term and sustainable solution to piracy. We welcome the moves in Somalia and by the international community to strengthen these efforts.

Seychelles is already working with the central government of Somalia as well as the regions of Somaliland and Puntland to be able to transfer prosecuted prisoners to serve their sentences in their country of origin. This is a key part of building rule of law in Somalia.

More resources are needed however to accelerate the building of appropriate infrastructure in those parts of Somalia where stability has been established.

We must transform fear and uncertainty into hope and optimism in Somalia itself, as well as in the Indian Ocean.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Respect for the rule of law is also about ensuring that conditions are in place for equity and fairness in the international system as a whole.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are too often on the periphery of most international decision making bodies.

Seychelles is proposing that SIDS be considered as offering unique opportunities for testing innovative policies and technologies, that can benefit all humanity.

In the fight against climate change, we may consider that SIDS can be at the forefront of ground breaking solutions.

For example, the Global Island Partnership, co-chaired by Seychelles, Palau and Grenada have proposed consideration of debt cancellation for SIDS to better allow preparation for climate change adaptation. A large number of SIDS have debt to GDP ratios in excess of 100%, and such debt cancellation would allow SIDS more space within their own budgets to better prepare to face climate change, and hence protect some of the most environmentally sensitive zones on the planet.

With regards to the high volatility of international fuel prices, SIDS can strengthen their resilience through investment in renewable energy. We warmly welcome the sustainable energy for all initiative championed by the Secretary General, and we commit our support to making it a success.

While the latest technology in renewable energy often represents a significant capital outlay, by developing pilot projects in SIDS, we can create potentially 100% renewable energy based economies that can then be replicated at a larger scale.

Finally, it is very important that consideration be given on how to better support SIDS within the international trading system.

Trade based support for SIDS could easily be established with no disruption or distortion to the global flow of goods and services.

Islands in particular are reliant on open access to trade with as many countries as possible.

In the context of the current challenges that exist in terms of food security, we urge that all barriers affecting trade with islands be lifted (including the economic embargo on Cuba) which further heightens the inherent challenges associated with trading from a position of insularity.

Most of all, as citizens of planet earth, we understand that as individuals, and as a nation- our decisions have consequences beyond our borders.

Our decisions have consequences for our futures, and for our children.

These are all issues that must be weighed up carefully- and it is important that all voices are considered in the debate.

We thank you all, for giving due consideration to Seychelles' voice.

Thank you.

