



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

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STATEMENT BY  
THE HONOURABLE SAM CONDOR  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
65<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. President, Secretary General, Heads of State and Government, Colleagues, Excellencies, Special Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Government of St. Kitts – Nevis has looked forward to this the 65<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly with much anticipation. We welcome the opportunity provided to share in the usual rich general debate; to strengthen existing relationships and to build new ones.

This environment, we believe, facilitates the exchange of views on issues of common interest and we look forward particularly, to those relative to the work still ahead in insidious global challenges.

I speak Mr. President to:

- the ongoing economic crisis - mitigating its negative impact on our countries and peoples, and all the implications for vulnerable small economies like ours;
- the prolonged tightening of credit markets;
- the protection of the environment from degradation
- the promotion of human security and
- the redress of the global epidemic of interpersonal violence.

## **CORRESPONDING CHALLENGES**

2. These, Mr. President, are but a few of the problems with which governments across the globe must grapple, and we do this against a backdrop of uncertainty and with the reality that the established centers of power are shifting.

As such, governments must now reconcile the pursuit of statecraft and national interests within the context of rapidly changing and less predictable relations between and among states.

Additionally, the 2008 economic and financial crises, whose effects are still very real today, have undermined confidence in our financial market systems and in what we had hitherto hailed as sound economic models.

3. Similarly, since the global recession, *poverty ranks* across the world have been swelling. The percentage of working poor has reached unprecedented levels, and millions more, now unemployed, see little prospect for hope or relief. As a consequence, many have lost faith in governance methods and in our long established financial systems.

We have all become painfully aware that environmental degradation is not country-specific and that the actions of individuals and enterprises in one country do ultimately harm ecosystems and threaten livelihoods in others. Hence, as countries pursue national agendas, we ought to be mindful of the common interests and the links that merge our societies and peoples, and use every opportunity for realistic convergence of our respective interests.

## **REVITALIZING AND EMPOWERING THE UNITED NATIONS**

4. Mr. President, notwithstanding the absence of absolute synergies in all areas of our multinational cooperative endeavors there can be little doubt that we have established a solid foundation that allows us to envision new and exciting horizons. The realization of these however, requires that as we contemplate bold initiatives comparable to the challenges faced, the United Nations must itself be prepared to further deepen its engagement with member states.

And so, Mr. President, although our yearly high political discourse is crucial, there must of necessity, be commensurate emphasis placed on the UN becoming more involved with regional organizations worldwide, enabling them to implement people-centric agendas and programs.

5. The United Nations should therefore be empowered to play a more pragmatic role in strengthening relations and expanding collaboration among member states, within Regional Integration Systems and International Financial Institutions.

My Delegation believes that this is one way to help provide new opportunities, and to facilitate greater access to resources needed, for implementing national policies, and meeting international obligations.

6. Mr. President, the United Nations, created out of the ruins of war, has over the past six and a half decades, been providentially guided by an unfaltering spirit of partnership and prevailing common sense. Despite countless challenges, that spirit is alive and well today. We must therefore work, even harder, to fulfill the dream of its architects and to live out their vision.

7. The United Nations then, must remain that vital nexus, fostering the necessary partnerships, for the greater good: Partnerships that would build a better future for us all. We have seen this partnership in action on the MDGs. We saw it as we worked to address the global financial crisis which threatened large economies and almost crippled the economies of Small Island States; and we witnessed it when governments and peoples across the globe, came to the assistance of our brothers and sisters in disaster-stricken Haiti; the magnitude of whose tragedy we had not experienced before in this hemisphere.

8. It is imperative therefore, that member states endeavor to revitalize the United Nations system and make it more representative of global socio-cultural, economic and political realities. This should allow developing countries, including smaller economies, a stronger voice and a more visible presence on the global stage.

## **PARTNERING OF SOCIETAL SECTORS IN ATTAINING MDGs**

9. It is within the context of repositioning the United Nations that we began, earlier this month, a process of review. I shall not duplicate the thoughts already expressed by other delegations. What should be recognized, however, is that the issues we have been discussing are all inter-related.

10. Mr. President, the United Nations has a track record of cooperation with the private and civic sectors. I want to suggest that it is through this kind of engagement; and with improved partnerships, that the United Nations has an opportunity to bring international business communities and civil society together, with member states, in a more structured way. This Mr. President, enables the practical exchange of ideas, the sharing of expertise and best practices, and the promotion of development and prosperity around the world.

11. St. Kitts and Nevis welcomes such a dialogue and partnership and recognizes the extent and reach of the United Nations in helping to build capacity, in the face of challenges such as the brain drain, which robs developing countries of their invaluable human resources. Through this advocacy then, the UN can assist also to safeguard gains in social and economic development.

St. Kitts and Nevis encourages member states to embrace this idea of a multipronged partnership as a way to bolster development processes, and strengthen global governance and accountability.

12. Mr. President, recognizing the spirit of cooperation, the government of St. Kitts and Nevis thanks the government and people of Taiwan for the continued outstanding support, international cooperation and development assistance over several decades. I also welcome the recent passage in that country's parliament of the International Cooperation and Development Law which incorporates the essence and principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the United Nations MDGs. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts and for sharing their development experience through public projects, social, agricultural and private sector development.

13. Mr. President, we note that despite being successful before the WTO dispute settlement body, Antigua and Barbuda, a fellow CARICOM Member State is yet to benefit there from. In the spirit of cooperation, we urge the parties involved to quickly seek to resolve the situation and arrive at a negotiation settlement that is fair and just to Antigua and Barbuda and its nationals.

#### **BOLSTERING THE WEAK, SHIELDING THE VULNERABLE**

14. Mr. President, 2010 has so far been a year of epic global natural disasters. The regularity and ferocity of floods, hurricanes, typhoons, sea level rise and other catastrophic events, are stark reminders of the consequences of climate change, since it is now well established that the frequency of natural disasters and climate change comprise intimately related phenomena. This is of particular concern to us, as Small Island Developing States are hardest hit by the consequences of climate change.

15. Mr. President, having regard for these facts, it should be a matter of some importance, to develop proactive coordinated approaches, in collaboration with financial institutions, insurance companies and other catastrophic-event-mitigation-stakeholders. The disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response paradigms incorporated into our national development strategies, are in need of urgent strengthening.

Indeed, my country is committed to such a comprehensive approach in disaster-risk abatement and mitigation, through capacity building and through the creation of internal mechanisms that

ensure more effective responses. I urge Member States to continue exploiting and exploring technology and best practices, as we work in partnership to find sustainable solutions to this problem.

16. Mr. President, we believe, that stronger political commitment, greater cooperation, and less apportioning of blame is required, if we are to succeed in this endeavor. So may the global partnership and solidarity evidenced in the aftermath of this year's many disasters, continue to prevail.

## **GLOBAL HEALTH, VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CITIZEN SECURITY**

17. Mr. President, four months ago, in May 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). That resolution seeks to halt the increasing trend in premature deaths from these diseases – mainly, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases. The resolution recognized that tackling these diseases constitutes a major step in bolstering sustainable development.

18. St. Kitts and Nevis applauds:

- the passage of UNGA Res 64/265, *Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)*.
- Its inclusion in discussions at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the Millennium Development Goals;
- and the proposed convening of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011 with the participation of Heads of State and Governments on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

At the same time, St. Kitts and Nevis seizes the opportunity to remind this General Assembly of another public health and public security issue which begs attention and resolution. Many will recall our efforts last year to bring greater attention to the issue of: *the global epidemic of interpersonal violence and its implications for development, health, security and governance*.

19. The data reveals that Inter-personal violence accounts for about 4,300 deaths per day (one every 20 seconds), one half of these being due to homicide. In some countries homicide rates are as high as 60-70 per 100,000. Mr. President the human, social and financial costs of violence are unacceptably high and are escalating.

In addition to physical injury and death, violence has a serious life-long impact on mental and physical health. Ultimately because of its multi- sectoral impact, it slows economic and social development in those countries which can least afford this. However, scientific evidence amassed over the past few decades clearly attests that violence and its consequences can be successfully prevented. But at present an integrated approach to global inter-personal violence prevention is sadly lacking.

20. The World Health Organization has been playing a key role in this field through its *Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention program*, and the UNGA has adopted

individual resolutions on violence against children, on violence against women and on armed violence.

There is yet no UNGA resolution that calls for an integrated approach to all forms of interpersonal violence; No resolution that speaks to youth violence - one of the major contributors to high murder rates and social breakdown; and no resolution that emphasizes the necessity of a multi-sectoral response to this problem.

21. St. Kitts and Nevis is therefore once again soliciting your support for such a Resolution - calling for an integrated and multi-sectoral response to all forms of interpersonal violence, recognizing the causes, with a view to having it placed on the UNGA agenda and tabling it next year, 2011. As we celebrate the *Year of the Youth*, I can think of no better time to introduce such a resolution.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF OUR HUMAN RESOURCE – PRIORITY ONE**

22. Mr. President, St Kitts and Nevis guards zealously the effective management and care of our resources. Our primary resource is our people, particularly our youth – our future. In preparing them for the promises and the potential perils of tomorrow, we have been investing strategically in education - education with relevance.

We prepare our youth not only with math, and science, but also with entrepreneurial skills, computer technology and with life skills so that they might be equipped for the opportunities created through policies and legislation, preparing them to compete in tomorrow's global economy. In doing so, we will continue to partner with the private sector to meet national developmental needs and to improve the standards of living of our people.

23. Additionally, Mr. President, I applaud the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender and Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). St. Kitts and Nevis has always played a lead role in women's empowerment. For us, the occupying of high offices and decision making roles by women have been the norm, a tradition we embrace and continue to cultivate. St. Kitts and Nevis thus remains committed to gender-equal opportunities at home and abroad. We look forward to participating actively in *UN Women* in the coming years and would be most pleased to share our experiences.

24. As we move forward through this 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, I encourage us to remain committed to the ideals that have brought us to this point. Let us marshal the courage to do the things that ought to be done, in order that this indispensable Global Institution might be positioned to deliver at its very best.

25. In conclusion, permit me to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the government of Switzerland, on your election to the Presidency of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I thank you for your readiness to preside over this General Assembly at a time of great challenge. We feel confident that you will rise to the challenges with great fortitude and determination.

J.C

Mr. President permit me to thank Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the 64th General Assembly, for his leadership and commitment during the past year.

Mr. President, I trust that under your leadership we would seize the moment for change, the compelling moment for reform: One which would be reflected in the Mid-Level Review of the Millennium Development Goals as we draw closer to the 2015 target. I assure you of my government's full support for your stewardship.