



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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*Theme:*

***"THE UN AT 70: THE ROAD AHEAD TO PEACE, SECURITY AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS"***

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Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,

First of all, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mogens Lykketoft on his election as the President of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and wish him much success.

And to our outgoing President, His Excellency Sam Kutesa, my thanks to him for his valuable contribution to the work of our Organisation and my best wishes for his future endeavours.

I would also like to express my appreciation to our Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his able leadership, as well as to the UN agencies for their active engagement with Member States.

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to be here as we all commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of our United Nations.

This is indeed a historic occasion to celebrate our achievements, as well as reflect on matters that require our urgent action.

70 years of the UN is a testament to its relevance.

It has gained greater recognition as the only world body that we all look up to on all aspects of humanity.

Despite what some people may say about its effectiveness, the UN has no equal.

It emerged in 1945 in the wake of mass destruction brought about by the Second World War.

Peace and security were then its main focus.

Today, its mandate has gone beyond this to include emerging challenges and evolving threats such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; climate change; pandemic diseases; terrorism; and violent extremism.

It has also been tasked to address multi-dimensional socio-economic matters.

Without a doubt, it has a comprehensive global mandate.

We recognise that the UN is not a panacea but this has not hindered its overall success.

On that note, we commend the valuable work of the UN agencies such as IAEA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO to improve every aspect of people's lives around the world.

One profound achievement is in the containment of pandemic diseases, which pose serious threat on everyone's lives.

In 1980, the WHO succeeded in completely eradicating smallpox and more recently, they worked with affected countries in containing the breakout of MERS and Ebola.

We have seen how our humanitarian workers and peacekeepers risk their lives to help in the work of the UN.

They all will always deserve our high respects for their commitment and sacrifices they have made in discharging their noble duties to make our world a safer place.

Mr. President,

With a membership of 193, the expectation is inevitably high on what our organisation can do to address ever-increasing range of issues.

Issues that affect the daily lives of the people we represent.

So, I am pleased that our new development agenda has encapsulated most if not all of these concerns.

Its inclusiveness signifies the trust and faith that we have in our organisation.

It is therefore important that we fulfil our national and collective responsibilities to implement this agenda and realise our peoples' hopes and dreams for a better life.

Mr. President,

In 1984, Brunei Darussalam's admission into the UN was a global endorsement of its sovereignty and territorial integrity as a fully independent nation.

Since then, we have benefitted extensively from this membership.

The UN has provided us with a platform to enhance our bilateral and multilateral relations with our friends and partners.

Through the UN, we have also been able to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to the maintenance of peace, stability and development.

Brunei Darussalam firmly believes that tolerance, compassion and social harmony are essential for lasting peace and security.

This has resulted in the close-knit community we have and enjoy today.

Such values have been the foundation of our country's stability and prosperity, which has provided an enabling environment for development.

In our region, ASEAN member states' shared principles of territorial integrity; non-interference; consensus; the rule of law; and good governance guide our efforts towards closer cooperation for peace, stability and prosperity.

It is these national and regional experiences, which constitute our contribution to the UN as part of the multilateral process.

And it is through the UN, that I envision the creation of a close-knit global community with similar values and principles, which can unleash our potential to work and achieve greater things together.

One way we could do this is through cultural exchanges to foster greater understanding and empathy with one another to enable us to live as a family of nations.

Perhaps with this, we would also be able to prevent new conflicts from happening and that resources could be better utilised for socio-economic development.

According to the World Bank, the average cost of civil war is equivalent to more than 30 years of GDP growth for a medium-size developing country.

In maintaining peace during and after a civil war, all the important peacekeeping activities have been very costly.

Above all else, it is impossible to place a value on the loss of lives.

So, preventive diplomacy is a cost-effective means of addressing conflict and certainly an integral part of conflict prevention efforts.

This is a long-term process and a worthwhile investment.

This is an area where the UN has made some achievements.

We highly value the important work of the Good Offices of the Secretary-General, Special Envoys and Resident Political Missions as some of the key tools of preventive diplomacy.

However, I believe that more can be done to enhance conflict prevention.

On the way forward, I agree with our Secretary-General's view that we have to strengthen the partnerships between the UN and regional or sub-regional organisations.

The latter have a unique influence and easier access to crisis situations in their respective regions.

Hence, the UN should be able to leverage on this strength to diffuse tension before it escalates into conflicts.

Through the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Member States along with other member participants have long been continuously working towards creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

Two years ago, they adopted a work plan on preventive diplomacy.

Its implementation has made significant progress and contributed towards the maintenance of peace and security of the region.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the UN for providing coaching and training programmes to help us implement this plan.

Mr. President,

I believe that our organisation is well placed for the promotion of cooperation and partnership based on mutual respect, understanding and tolerance.

These are necessary to prevent wars and conflicts; religious persecutions; violent ideological confrontations; and terrorism.

Since our last gathering, we have witnessed tragic loss of lives caused by inhumane terrorist acts in various parts of the world.

These are intolerable and we join others in condemning terrorism, totally rejecting extremism and radicalism.

We reiterate our support towards all efforts by the international community to prevent and eliminate all forms of terrorism.

In this regard, we also support inter-cultural dialogues amongst peoples of different religions and cultures and initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations; Global Movement of Moderates; King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue; World against Violence and Violent Extremism; and the Countering Violent Extremism Summit.

It is crucial for us to address the root causes of terrorism and extremism in a comprehensive manner.

We need to ensure that irresponsible parties do not exploit others' despair and suffering to fuel their own extremist agendas.

One way to approach this is to resolve the plight of our Palestinian brothers and sisters. It remains to be the core of the Middle East conflict.

For over 60 years, they have struggled to achieve self-determination and I strongly believe that a lasting and peaceful solution is long overdue.

Nevertheless, I am glad to see some positive developments where Palestine has been accepted as a member to various international bodies.

Moreover, it is indeed a historic decision by the General Assembly to have the flag of Palestine flying proudly together with flags of other sovereign and independent nations of this world body.

All these contribute towards attaining recognition for their right to statehood.

Mr. President,

We hope to see further improvements to make our organisation more effective in responding to the ever-increasing demands of its members.

On this note, I wish to reiterate our commitment to continue working with others to ensure that the UN remains a strong force for peace, security and human rights.

The success of our organisation lies in our hands.

After all, our collective efforts and strength are the best attributes of this organisation.

Thank you.