



Republic of Dauria

Statement By The Chairman of the Delegation

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tation by many SIDS is but a true reflection that our problems which are SIDS specific and that they go deeper than the generic issues of development in general. Nauru is also concerned that some of the development partners would skew the review into one addressing SIDS MDG performance instead of BPOA performance. I believe our concern has to an extent been warranted and therefore my delegation would like to use this opportunity to remind our partners that the review is about identifying and solving SIDS failure to accomplish agreed development programs under the Barbados Plan of 1994; and its about how you, our development partners can help us the SIDS attain these goals. It is therefore our sincere hope that the third round of negotiations due early in October will be conducted in the right spirit and better understanding.

Regional Issues

Mr. President, the Pacific Islands Forum continues to be the vehicle for regional cooperation and collaboration amongst the 16 Pacific Island countries of the central and western pacific. It has adopted the Pacific Plan at the Apia Forum last month to revitalize and make the Forum more effective in its response to the needs of the peoples of the region. Issues such as climate change, peace and security, economic and social development of its peoples and the protection of and sustainable use of the environment and the natural resources are still the priority of the Forum.

Nauru welcomes the admission of The Kingdom of Thailand as the 13th member of the Forum's dialogue partners. This group of countries along with the EU and individual member countries of the EU and the UN specialized agencies and programs are critical to the development of the region as they provide the financial backbone to enable such activity to take place. During this session the cooperation between the UN and the Pacific Island Forum will be considered under item 58Q of the agenda. The Pacific Island Forum group at the UN looks forward to working closely with member states in developing and expanding the areas of cooperation under a draft resolution that will be tabled before the General Assembly in due course.

Nauru like the other low-lying small island states sees the Kyoto Protocol as our salvation from sea

Our crisis lies largely in the fact that two thirds of our people in employ work for the Government and its instrumentalities. These employees have not been paid regular salary for over a year now although at irregular intervals either A\$100 food vouchers or A\$30 to A\$50 cash are given to purchase food compared to the basic wage of A\$350 (US\$248.50) per fortnight. The average family size on Nauru is around 6 and therefore A\$50 cash fortnightly is equivalent to US\$0.42 per day, well below the UN definition for abject poverty of US\$1 a day!

The fact that many Nauruans can harvest, albeit, limited food from the sea and the land in conjunction with our culture and tradition of sharing has meant that despite the lack of cash, our people eat at least once a day. The problem would be in the level of daily nutritional intake particularly for the children as one cannot buy imported commodities such as fruits and vegetables and hygienic supplies and the situation is exacerbated by the fact that Nauru imports 99% of all food and other essential items. Accordingly food security in the medium to long term is a serious concern as there is no form of agricultural activity on Nauru.

Nauru's recovery cannot be possible without the establishment of reputable financial institutions on Nauru and the lifting of the restriction on financial transaction between the international community and Nauru. This will not happen if Nauru continues to be subjected to counter-measures and black-listing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Despite the outlawing of the registration of foreign banks some 12 months ago Nauru has not been successful in its bid to be lifted from counter-measures as a first step although there have been incremental progress toward this goal over the period. Following the visit by IMF early this year, Nauru has, for the fourth time, passed an anti-money laundering law that now supersedes previous laws. We have participated in FATF regional reviews and despite strong support of actions taken on advice; we seem to fail at the plenary review.

As I speak, the Parliament of Nauru is considering passage of three bills addressing issues raised by the FATF: the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime Bill; the Proceeds of Crime Bill, and the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill. We are confident that passage of these bills, prioritizing related issues through appointment of a National Coordinating Committee on Anti-Money Laundering (NCC) – which also comprises the Australian official appointed as Secretary for Finance – and the NCC's 'Face-to-Face' meeting with the FATF's Asia-Pacific Working Group in Brunei next week will bring us closer to our objective of being de-listed. Mr. President, we will persevere as we know that in the end we will prevail.

Mr. President, the intervention by the Pacific Islands Forum is seen as pre-empting the possibility of the economic crisis escalating into a security and safety issue for the Nauruan people and the region. Teams of regional experts representing the Forum and Australia have visited Nauru on a fact finding mission and will be reporting to the Leaders in due course which will include recommendations on the type and manner in which assistance should be rendered. Whilst the proposal –to be formally known as Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru (PRAN) - is being finalized, the Forum has agreed to provide in the immediate term capacity building assistance in the justice, judicial, financial audit and national planning sectors, transportation for the health and education sectors, as well as a small cash grant to assist with public sector wages.

This assistance is complementing that provided separately by Australia which has deployed Australian Finance and Treasury officials to head the Nauru Department of Finance, and the deployment next month of Australian Police to take command of the Nauru Police Force. Indeed, as I speak, the Parliament of Nauru is considering also a reform budget designed with the assistance of Australian Finance and Treasury officials, which budget adopts harsh if realistic measures as a preliminary but decisive step towards stabilizing and eventually rebuilding the economy and society of Nauru.

For the same reasons, the Government of Nauru has written to the Secretary General of the United Nations in August this year alerting him of the looming crisis on Nauru and to request assistance

from the UN system to assist alleviate the plight of the Nauruan people. His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty and the Foreign Minister, Hon. David Adeang will be visiting New York in the latter part of October to meet with the Secretary General and appropriate UN bodies on this matter and my Government looks forward to receiving positive responses from the UN system in the same manner as the Pacific Islands Forum.

Conclusion

To conclude, Mr. President, the 59th session has critical work ahead of it such as the International Meeting for the 10 year review of the Barbados Plan of Action, the tabling of and deliberation on the finding of the High Level Panel constituted by the Secretary General, the review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the preparations for the 5 year review of the Millennium Declarations and its Goals, and the continuation of our deliberations on the revitalization of the General Assembly and of the reform of the Security Council just to name a few. As the Secretary General has stated, the UN is at a fork in the road on its relevance as an organisation of nations united to seek common solutions to common problems. The next 12 months will determine if we the United Nations of the world continued on the road where "business as usual" is the mode of operation or followed the road of multilateralism as the principle rule of our engagement. The statements so far indicate the latter, but we have heard this before!

God Bless Nauru and God Bless the United Nations

Thank you for your attention.