



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

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

AT THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 SEPTEMBER 2007

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**Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Secretary-General,**

My congratulations to you, Mr. President and your government and people on your election.

I would like to start with some words of appreciation.

My thanks to Her Excellency Sheikh Haya Rashid Al Khalifa for her leadership of the General Assembly over the past year and my congratulations to our Secretary-General on the progress he has made during the past nine months.

His first report is very encouraging and we welcome his response to the new challenges we are all facing.

I also wish to thank our United Nations representatives, workers and volunteers throughout the world. They are undertaking very hard tasks which are often extremely dangerous. So, we thank them for their professional dedication.

This is especially so in many parts of the Middle East, Mr. President, and here, I would like to offer once more our continued strong support for all the efforts being made by the United Nations to find a solution to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

In doing so, we also re-affirm our solidarity with the people of Palestine in their efforts to find a just and lasting solution to problems that have been going on for almost sixty years.

Mr. President,

My last word of thanks is to you, personally.

We were most encouraged by your acceptance speech and your plans for the future. You expressed strong support for multi-lateral solutions to world problems and we were pleased to hear this.

We certainly agree with the need for the United Nations to strengthen its central position in the multilateral system.

Most of all, we are very happy with the idea of a lasting consensus among member states; the private sector, the NGO's, and civil society.

We are especially pleased that you included "civil society".

This means giving ordinary people a place in the consensus and that is why we found the statement so encouraging.

Nevertheless, Mr. President, it sets up a very serious challenge to the United Nations.

It is most important that our people gain the understanding that comes from knowledge, experience and expertise. I think our theme at this session, climate change, shows this very clearly.

The many discussions we have had this week have taught us that all modern problems are extremely complicated. It has also shown us how important it is to gain a full understanding of these difficulties.

If our people are to gain such understanding, it will come from having universal good education; good health and strong social services.

This will only come when all countries have reached the United Nations Millennium Goals.

So, it is more urgent than ever that these goals be reached on time.

They cover all aspects of modern life, political, social, cultural and perhaps, above all today, economic and commercial.

As such, they provide a way for people to understand modern problems well, take a full part in your consensus and help to find solutions.

I say this because we are now at the critical halfway point that we set out seven years ago in planning the Millennium Development Goals.

The discussions we have held all week on climate change show how vital the next seven years will be.

In my own country, Mr. President, we have only just started to realize how difficult this subject is. It is like security, sustainable development and energy.

These are all new twenty-first century problems and they all mean that our people need to learn more and more and to learn very quickly.

We need to include the subjects I have mentioned in all aspects of national development planning. And we need to share knowledge and expertise. We believe that this is more important than ever.

This is because, in exchanging views and information on climate change this week, we have also received another new lesson.

This teaches us that, when it comes to modern, twenty-first century problems, we are all in them together.

This is what your consensus means, Mr. President.

It recognises that we all have an important contribution to make if we work with each other.

That is why, Mr. President, we very much welcome the partnership you have proposed. We hope it will result in our people becoming far more than just receivers of solutions.

We hope it will start to make them one of the most important agents in finding solutions.

Mr. President,

We feel you have begun your term of office by inviting us all to share a modern platform on which we can all work well.

So, we are very pleased to join you in your consensus for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly and we wish you much success in broadening and strengthening it during the coming year.

Thank you.

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