

Réunion : 68eme Débat général à l'Assemblée générale

Date : 27 Septembre 2013

Durée : 7'24" (114 mots/minute)

Orateur : Denzil L. Douglas, Premier Ministre de Saint Kitts and Nevis

Difficulté : \*\*

Éléments à fournir : L'orateur félicite à l'entame de ses propos John Ashe, président de la 68eme session de l'Assemblée générale. (Non dit dans l'introduction orale : il mentionne également Vuk Jeremić, président de la 67eme session.)

Mr President,  
Distinguished Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,  
Esteemed Heads of State and Government,  
Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly pleased to extend congratulations to you, distinguished President, Ambassador John Ashe, on your election to preside over the 68th session of the General Assembly. I am indeed proud given the stellar service of the General Assembly, and of course the service that you have rendered to your native land, Antigua and Barbuda, and the Latin American and Caribbean region in general. As a member of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean regional grouping, and the wider Caribbean region, Saint Kitts and Nevis pledges its full support to you throughout your tenure at the helm of the General Assembly. I am confident that

your expertise and your skills will position you favorably to guide the General Debate and the extensive work program of the various Committees and Agencies of this august body.

Mr President,

Saint Kitts and Nevis wishes to place on record its own appreciation to your predecessor the President of the 67th session, his excellency Mr Vuk Jeremić, for the important contributions that he made to advance the work of this institution during his own tenure.

Mr President,

We advance into this 68th session fully cognizant of the diverse challenges with which we must contend and equally seized of our obligation as a Government and people to contribute to the global priorities that inform the work of this august body. We see the relevance of maintaining sharp focus on those areas that are quite integral to the national and international development agenda. I refer to such matters as sustainable development, maintenance of international peace and security, promotion of human rights, disarmament, promotion of justice and international law, and effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts. These, we believe, are our core principles to inform any plan of action to advance into the post 2015 era with the confidence that our shared vision for meeting our set goals will be realized.

Mr President,

It was just a few days ago that Saint Kitts and Nevis attained another important milestone, celebrating three decades of nationhood, with a very strong

commitment to maintain the stability and prosperity of our nation, drawing on our own creativity as a government and a people. This year's presentation, therefore, it bears great significance for our proud nation. As one of the smallest Member States of the western hemisphere and of this organization, we are pleased with the significant strides that we have made as my Government pursues the process of transformation for sustainability in a nation that is not immune from the global developments that continue to negatively impact our own national agenda.

My Government, however, is working assiduously in transforming our former sugar-based economy to one that is service-oriented, driven mainly by tourism and hospitality, and supported by international financial services, offshore education services, manufacturing and agriculture. In all of this we are cognizant of the momentum, and in fact the impact, of information and communication technology as a tool that will assist in the development of the national economy. As far as the manufacturing sector is concerned, we have developed a cluster of light manufacturing enterprises, that service the North and South American markets, and also the European markets, with quality electronics and electrical components, for the construction, cable television, aerospace and aircraft industries. Indeed, our present economic trajectory will ensure that we meet both our Millennium Development Goals as well as our own Sustainable Development Goals in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. And that is why the theme of this session : "The Post 2015 Development Agenda : Setting the Stage", is perceived to be quite relevant today.

Mr President,

My delegation is pleased that during this session of the General Assembly we will be reviewing progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as the target date of 2015 fast approaches. The distinguished

Secretary General must be complimented for his initiative in this regard. I am pleased to indicate that Saint Kitts and Nevis has made tremendous strides in achieving the first MDG - that is, the eradication of extreme poverty. Our government has invested heavily in creating a very solid and expansive social safety infrastructure which has assisted the less fortunate to lead dignified lives. We provide subsidized health care for children and for the elderly. We assist vulnerable families with the resources to pursue education, and provide them with a nourishing, hot meal each day. We also provide living facilities for the aged and for the indigent.

Mr President,

It is the hope of my delegation that globally, every single effort will be made to ensure that all targets are met by the 2015 indicative deadline. Indeed, "The Millennium Development Goals report, 2013", provides a clear indication of exactly where the international community should be directing its focus. And so, the world as a whole has to pay great attention to the most off-track MDGs, and those where progress has been stalled, including those related to hunger, related to universal access to primary education, related to child mortality, maternal health and access to sanitation.