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Statement by HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam at the 17th Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, 28 May 2014

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Statement by HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Brunei Darussalam

17th Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau

Non-Aligned Movement

Wednesday, 28 May 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the government and people of Algeria, for the arrangements for our meeting and especially for the warm welcome we have received. May I also add my own welcome to our many guests from all over the world and to the representatives of the United Nations.

At the same time, Brunei Darussalam joins fellow members in expressing our lasting recognition of the late President Nelson Mandela. We honour his memory and inspiration.

Mr. Chairman, the commemorative meeting in Bali in 2011 offered a vision reaching out over 50 years. So, I would like to thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for their leadership over the last two years in support of this vision. We still have excellent memories of the meeting in Tehran in 2012.

Like many who attended, I left in a spirit of renewed opportunity and confidence. Our feelings were summed up in a single word, "hope".

We felt aligned with the hope of the people we represent and we were firmly non-aligned with a world of confrontation between the interests of major forces whether political or commercial. Unfortunately, over the past two years, there has been little opportunity to make our people feel that our words are more than just expressions of hope.

The one practical thing I think we can point to is the progress in Palestine. I greatly appreciate the continued efforts of our movement in supporting the Palestinian cause. This is once again highlighted by the proclamation of 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. So, we are very pleased to join others in adopting the NAM declaration on Palestine.

We are also happy that the state of Palestine has successfully obtained observer status in the United Nations. This represents a significant step forward and we reaffirm our support for their full membership.

Apart from that, however, I fear that our hopes seem to have been overtaken by events, natural and man-made disasters, and political, sectarian and even tribal confrontations.

So Mr. Chairman, the question I believe we face now is a simple one. Not "what do we say about this?" but "what do we do about this?"

We have our meetings and mechanisms but we have to bring back confidence and hope to our people in their families and communities because the alternative is tragic. It is already visible in one word, "emigration".

Too many of our people are seeking by any means in their power to get out of the non-aligned world. They prefer to take their chance in the aligned one, the one aligned with jobs, freedom, and a peaceful future. In other words, we have reached a new stage of globalisation.

The first one was shallow. It amounted to little more than children playing with smartphones. This second stage however is deeper and possibly threatening. It reveals that globalisation has the growing power to divide the world into a new global colonisation.

There are those who own it and benefit from its products. There are others whose only purpose is to make or buy these products or merely see them in shop windows.

The people we represent here are clearly forming the second group.

They are thus in danger of resuming the role they played in the last century. As a result, the words of one of the great founding fathers of our association in Southeast Asia may become sadly prophetic.

"Should globalism collapse," he said, "then we will inevitably enter another dark age."

I believe the challenge we face as a movement right now, Mr. Chairman, is how to avoid that fate by deeds rather than words.

This, I believe, calls on us as members of this association and our guests from all over the world to share the full benefits of globalisation as friends and, in the words of a well-known Algerian saying, "a true friend is someone who shares your happiness and your pains."

Mr Chairman, in this spirit, I hope we and the major powers of the modern world, political and commercial, can put the fears and animosities of the twentieth century firmly behind us and build this new century in the interests of the ordinary people we represent.

In terms of the two words we use to describe our association here, "non-aligned" and "movement", the modern world, I believe, demands that we place all our emphasis on the second.

"Movement" for our people towards renewed hope, towards happiness, towards prosperity and towards peace obtained solely through dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy.

Thank you.

Commonwealth Day Message from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

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Today, my Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam celebrate Commonwealth Day in the spirit of friendship that has united us with fellow members for the past thirty years. Based on our shared values and principles, we have continued to work together towards our mutual goals, and this is indeed the thrust behind this year's Commonwealth Day theme, "Team Commonwealth".

We should remember that the essence of creating peaceful societies and achieving sustainable progress also hinges upon our co-operation with one another. This is why we are encouraged by the teamwork within the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, in support of economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development. This is further exemplified by the continued efforts of member countries within the Commonwealth family to bring about practical outcomes for our people.

The upcoming Commonwealth Games 2014 is what certainly makes this year's theme more appropriate. Our gathering in Glasgow will demonstrate the dynamic team spirit within and between our nations. It will provide a good impetus for us all to continue supporting and assisting each other in overcoming the many challenges that we face towards achieving the aspirations of our Organisation. This is very important in ensuring that the Commonwealth remains distinctive, effective and relevant.

Our hope is to provide the best future for our people throughout the Commonwealth through the strengthening of the bond of friendship and unity among ourselves and by moving forward as one team towards safeguarding the peace and development of the modern world.

SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH

OF BRUNEI

Address by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as the Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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ADDRESS BY

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE HAJI AL-MUHTADEE BILLAH

IBNI HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH

MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH

THE CROWN PRINCE AND SENIOR MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OF
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

AS

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS MAJESTY

THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

AT THE 68th SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 28 SEPTEMBER 2013

Theme:

"POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: SETTING THE STAGE!"

Mr. President,
Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,

On behalf of His Majesty the Sultan and the people of Brunei Darussalam, I wish to congratulate His Excellency Dr. John Ashe on his appointment as the 68th President of the United Nations General Assembly.

To our former President Vuk Jeremić, we thank him for his efforts and contribution over the past year.

Let me begin by expressing our sincere condolences to the Government and the people of Kenya and to the families of the victims of the terrorist attack.

Such an act deserves our condemnation.

Our deepest sympathies also go to those affected by the recent earthquake in Pakistan. Mr. President,

Thirteen years ago at this Assembly, our Leaders made a promise to our people to fulfil their hopes and expectations for a better life.

This is why we see the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a very important global partnership.

It has shown us that progress can be made if we work together locally, regionally and internationally.

I therefore would like to put on record our appreciation to our Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his predecessor Kofi Annan on the support and commitment that the UN agencies have given to realise this historic initiative.

We are now approaching the end of the 15 year period.

Like many other nations, Brunei Darussalam has been able to learn much from the experiences in implementing the MDGs.

We understand the high expectations for all to do well.

However, we need to consider the problems that some member states are struggling with.

These include limitations to natural resources, political conflicts, socio-economic problems and natural disasters.

That is why, Mr. President, this year's theme is so appropriate. The theme focuses on "setting the stage".

For us in Brunei Darussalam, this means having a national vision, the "Brunei Vision 2035".

It clearly provides the direction towards attaining a dynamic and sustainable economy in the interests of our people.

In line with the vision, we give great emphasis to help our younger generation in order to realise their hopes.

We have done this through providing quality education, encouraging innovation and creating better job opportunities.

We also do what we can to assist fellow developing countries either bilaterally or in partnership with other countries and international organisations in human resource development, offering scholarships to study in Brunei Darussalam as well as providing training under community outreach programme within the region.

We hope this people-to-people approach will promote cultural exchanges and understanding.

At the same time, our regional work has also been strongly influenced by other members' efforts to achieve the MDGs.

Within ASEAN, we have an agreed plan to achieve an ASEAN Community by 2015.

Brunei Darussalam, as this year's ASEAN Chairman, has chosen the theme "OR People, Our Future Together".

It signifies our people's role in ASEAN's community-building efforts.

In addition, we have also encouraged our Member States to start working on an ASEAN plan beyond 2015 to further strengthen our mission in promoting peace, stability and prosperity.

We will also continue to work together in strategically positioning ASEAN in the wider and the world at large.

In this regard, we are pleased that His Excellency Ban Ki-moon has accepted our invitation to come to Brunei Darussalam for the 5th ASEAN-UN Summit.

We look forward to sharing our vies and experiences with him.

We hope this will strengthen the cooperation between our Association and the UN.

We are also encouraged by the recommendations put forward by the recent report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on how we can assist our people better in their daily lives through providing food security, quality education and eradicating extreme poverty.

Overall, the MDGs offered us many lessons indeed and now it is time for all of us to move forward.

Mr. President,

Regardless of the statistics of who has achieved the goals or not, we feel that much has been attained through the concept of the MDGs itself.

The goals have opened up opportunities to every member to develop their own way and to involve their people in that development, even beyond 2015.

Unfortunately, the options open to some people are severely limited.

This is so when their basic fundamental right of self-determination is denied.

We particularly refer to the people of Palestine whom we believe can attest to this.

Their legitimate struggle for a homeland of their own remains unresolved.

Hence, we support calls by the international community to intensify efforts towards realising this basic right that we take for granted today.

The 29th of November 2012 was indeed a memorable day in the history of Palestine when they were accepted as an observer state in the UN.

I would like to once again express our support for their full membership, as well as for their legitimate struggle to regain the right to their own independent and sovereign state.

Mr. President,

The worsening situation in Syria continues to be of serious concern.

We join the international community in condemning the use of chemical weapons, which has caused the loss of lives in the country.

More importantly, we support all efforts, particularly by the UN, in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In this regard, we welcome the US - Russia Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons and the recent adoption of the UN Security Council resolution on Syria.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and all of his staff as well as the UN volunteers for their hard work.

We highly respect the peacekeepers for the sacrifices they have made in the maintenance of international peace and stability.

We hope that our efforts with the various UN agencies and bodies will direct us to the future that we all want.

Thank you.

ASEAN Day Message 2013 from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

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ASEAN Day Message 2013

from

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

Today we celebrate the forty-sixth anniversary of ASEAN - a regional grouping of ten countries that strives to offer a sense of hope, confidence and purpose to more than six hundred million people in the Southeast Asian region.

ASEAN is making good progress in meeting its objectives. And each year I am pleased to see its members intensifying efforts to make the region more politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.

On this year's theme, 'Our people, Our Future Together', we emphasise the role of our people in ASEAN's community building efforts and look beyond 2015. With the programmes that have been organised for our youth, we are equipping them with the necessary attributes and values to face tomorrow's challenges. They are after all the future leaders of ASEAN.

As we celebrate today's achievements, we should not forget the Founding Fathers of ASEAN. The ASEAN/Bangkok Declaration, which they signed in 1967, is an important document that paved the way for many other ASEAN agreements and declarations. We should carry on their wisdom, vision and courage and let them be the source of ASEAN's inspiration into the future. In this spirit, we pay our respects to them.

Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all my fellow Muslims a Happy Festive Eid.

SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH OF BRUNEI
