



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

**771 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017**

**Address by**

**The Honourable Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof  
Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam**

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*[Please Check Against Delivery]*

Bismillah irrahmanirrahim

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and peace be upon you all.

It is a great honour and privilege to be here today to convey the warm greetings of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to this august Session.

My congratulations to His Excellency Tijjani Muhammad-Bande on assuming the Presidency of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

My appreciation also goes to Her Excellency Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés for her valuable contribution and dedication to the General Assembly this past year.

I am also deeply grateful to Secretary-General António Guterres for his leadership and laudable initiatives that have given renewed impetus to our organisation, particularly in hosting the Climate Action and the SDG Summits.

Mr. President,

In 2015, our leaders gathered in this hall to adopt the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This remarkable feat is a testament to the success of multilateralism and concerted efforts. Today, we continue to honour that agenda through a theme focused on *'galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion'*. The global consensus on this is clear - our ability to fulfill the promise of the SDGs, begins and ends with the commitment of member states to work together.

Mr. President,

Our search for a better future is often mired by increasingly complex and interconnected challenges. More and more, countries are struggling to address overlapping concerns, such as deforestation and access to clean air. This reflects the indivisibility and multidimensional nature of the SDGs, which must be addressed collectively and in its totality. The path that each country takes to achieve their goals will be unique, but we recognise that all are mutually reinforcing to one another. For its part, Brunei Darussalam will present its Voluntary National Review for the first time at next year's High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, where we will be happy to share best practices, lessons learned and challenges encountered.

Globally, while overall progress is made, trends indicate that the pace of improvement is too slow to ensure success by 2030. While we believe in the common pledge for no one to be left behind, we also recognise that no country can do it alone. We, therefore, welcome the call to accelerate collective action as contained in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit. Success in achieving the SDGs will be a test of global cooperation, partnership and collaboration that requires action at the local, national and regional levels. Towards this end, we are working closely to advance a people-centred ASEAN Community which complements the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. President,

To localise the impact of SDGs, Brunei Darussalam continues to undertake measures aimed at the wellbeing, peace and harmony of its people. The government has ensured access for all to affordable housing and healthcare, as well as clean water and environment, in order to improve the quality of life. As a country with a young demographic, we also prioritise the education of our youth and recognise the importance of lifelong learning. Education will empower and better prepare the people, acting as a catalyst for achieving the SDGs and for our continued development. People need the tools to build a better life. In this regard, His Majesty's Government remains committed to providing free high-quality education all the way to the tertiary level, so no Bruneian is left behind.

Mr. President,

In our quest for progress, we have learned that there are costs associated with economic development. The most common, is perhaps the damage to the environment. As citizens of the world, we are all stakeholders in ensuring a healthy planet. There is a shared global responsibility that falls on all of us, be it, governments, private sectors and individuals, as well as corporate players and investors alike, to be principled in our undertakings. There must be a universal commitment to overcome this existential threat and effectively work towards building a sustainable future.

The effects of climate change are being felt now and they will only get worse. We are at a critical juncture and stand at the precipice of making significant changes, to reverse this climate crisis and secure the right of future generations to a sustainable world. There is a vested interest to ensure our legacy as problem solvers and not problem makers. Technological advancements have made it possible for us to engineer modern solutions to modern challenges. Innovations like carbon capture and negative emission technologies have ushered in a new frontier to reduce and remove carbon emissions. We therefore believe that more needs to be done in sharing and transferring technology, so that we can all move from reactive responses to proactive solutions on climate change.

Mr. President,

The digital revolution has redefined social interaction, proliferated e-commerce and intensified information-sharing. However, we must be careful to prevent malicious use of these technologies. While technology like the internet can offer solutions, it has also given rise to an age of unprecedented misinformation and manipulation. There is rampant misuse of the internet and social media that spreads hatred, incites violence and even glorifies acts of crime and terrorism. Extremist views are also indoctrinated and rationalised, with no regard for the different cultural backgrounds and religious beliefs of others. While we must adapt to the technological advances, it is also urgent that we collectively address the emerging threats they can pose.

Mr. President,

Despite our best efforts, there is an increase in conflicts around the world that has left many displaced, destitute and vulnerable. We see the perpetual struggle of the Palestinian people for statehood and their inalienable right to self-determination continuously being neglected. Prolonged occupation, forced displacement and illegal settlements have deprived them of every human right. This seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly has heard repeated calls for no one to be left behind. However, the Palestinian people have been left behind for as long as they have been fighting for their existence. As the premier multilateral forum, there is no equal to the UN's role in ensuring that a just solution is achieved, which establishes a sovereign State of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. President,

As we move towards the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations next year, it is a good opportunity for reflection on all the work we have done and where we are going. The reality of our world today demands concerted and collective action. I believe the UN is now more relevant than ever.

We must reconnect with the spirit of the Charter that enshrines the equality of nations and multilateralism which respects the individuality and independence of all states. Collectively, we depend on the UN to uphold the sovereign right of all nations to decide their own path and policies that resonate with their own customs and traditions.

It is not a time to retreat, but to push forward and strengthen multilateralism so we can fulfil the varied needs of the global community to enjoy peace, prosperity and development.

Thank you.