



Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your presidency of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly and know that with your vast experience we are in excellent hands. I should also like to pay tribute to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Julian Hunte, for his excellent stewardship of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. He called for a proactive Assembly and ably steered us on this course from the outset.

The 10 Year Review of the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA+10)

Mr. President,

We are enthusiastic at the forthcoming ten year review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA+10) as an extension and implementation of the commitments agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation - in particular – its Chapter VII. Whilst the developmental path to Mauritius in January 2005 has been fraught with its own challenges, it is critical to Small Island Developing States that the impetus for this important global review is not lost in its own rhetoric. It is paramount that the outcome(s) from Mauritius be refined and focused on translating the oft quoted "special case" of SIDS into firm and timely support and global implementation. As such, participation by all Member States in both the forthcoming preparatory process next month and in the substantive International Meeting in Mauritius next year is essential to realizing our developmental aspirations.

While the Bahamas Strategy document contains a range of SIDS priorities as endorsed by the Alliance of Small Island States and by the G77 and China, it is worth noting that the geographical make up of Small Island States puts some of our islands at a disadvantage. This is because economic development has focused on larger is

## Oceans and Law of the Sea

Mr. President,

All Pacific Island States take a keen interest in the preservation of the living and non-living resources of the Pacific Ocean. It is altogether right that the Pacific should be concerned about the proper conservation and management of its resources so as to avoid their over-exploitation.

As a developing ocean State, we are vigilant about progress in oceans affairs and the law of the sea issues. We consider the valuable contribution by the meeting of States



The policy does not supplant the long existing warm ties of friendship we enjoy with Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States in the Pacific region as these friendly ties and broad range of cooperation is firmly rooted in our policy.

#### Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

Mr. President,

My Government has recently approved the fourth deployment later in the year of Police Officers and non-commissioned officers to the Solomon Islands under the auspices of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. In like terms, our Defence Board has also approved the deployment of a contingent from the Tonga Defence Services for the second half of next year in concert with the agreed rotation formula under RAMSI. That would then be the third deployment by the Tonga Defence Services under the RAMSI programme.

#### Security Council Reform

Mr. President,

We all look forward to the report of the High Level Panel established by the Secretary General to examine and "to recommend clear and practical measures for ensuring effective action based on their analysis of future threats to peace and security." Judging from the makeup of the High Level Panel and their formidable credentials, I should think the report itself and their recommendations will set the tone for the constructive engagement of the Assembly.

As we have stated previously, we believe that the membership of the Security Council ought to be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent seats in a manner and form commensurate with the needs of today and tomorrow, and also in keeping with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. We believe that Japan ought to have permanent seat from the Asian Group and that a permanent seat should be allocated to Africa and another to Latin America. The expansion of non-permanent seats should take into account the interest and composition of the regional groupings and also the aspirations of Small Islands Developing States.

UN Peacekeeping Weryeveloping States.

our senior Defence and Police Officers with the appropriate officers in the Department of Peacekeeping of the United Nations. Needless to say, the size of our deployment will be fashioned by our available manpower and financial capacity.

The Middle East

Mr. President,

Although violence renders an enduring peace elusive, we continue to harbour hopes that a lasting peace can soon be concluded so that a Palestinian State can be established living side by side with the State of Israel in internationally recognized border and in peace and security.

Donor Partners

Mr. President,

Our development has been made possible through domestic resources and also through bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance and all of which have been highly appreciated. Our major donor partners have been Australia, China, the EU (with some member States such as Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom providing additional assistance), Japan, and New Zealand. The United States provides assistance through its Fishery Treaty with the Pacific region and through other avenues. In recent times, India, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia have provided technical assistance. The UNDP, GEF, UNEP, UNAIDS, WHO, the Global Fund, the World Bank and other financial institutions have also provided various forms of assistance and technical expertise. Much of the technical assistance is channeled to combating diabetes, tuberculosis and preventing the spread of the HIV/AIDS scourge, other assistance has been directed at meeting our MDGs and for small community programmes and projects.

I thank you Mr. President.