



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (102nd Plenary Meeting)

Statement

By

H.E. Camillo M. Gonsalves

Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

on

Agenda item 48 (Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference) (draft resolution A/63/L.77).

31st July, 2009
New York

Adapted from Extempore Remarks

Thank you, Mr. President.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, of course, aligns itself fully and enthusiastically with the statements made on behalf of CARICOM, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Group of 77 and China, and has very little to add, other than to say that we welcome the adoption of this resolution and the formation of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Mr. President, you will recall that the participation of CARICOM Heads of Government at the Conference far exceeded the proportional and actual representation of other regions and sub-regions at the highest level. The high level of participation by CARICOM was indicative of the importance with which we view the Financial and Economic Crisis and the role of the United Nations in helping to address the Crisis. None of us [in CARICOM] are members of either the G-8 or the G-20; and the only way in which we can build upon and complement the ongoing work of the G-8 and the G-20 is through the United Nations and the mechanism contemplated by this Resolution.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and much of our sub-region, does not share the experiences of some developed countries who now see an end, or a bottoming out, or even the beginning of a recovery from the Crisis. In many ways, for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Crisis is just beginning, in new and substantive ways. And we think it is critical that we remain engaged in substantive matters related to the Crisis.

As such, the reason for the intervention, Mr. President, is to state simply that the contours, mandate and scope of the Working Group are well delineated by the outcome document itself, which was adopted by consensus. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that there is no need for us to unduly delay ourselves orchestrating the dance of procedural angels on the head of a pin. We believe that the substance of the document is very clear, and that we have had open ended working groups before, whose settled procedures can assist us. The urgency of the Crisis makes it imperative that we get on with the substantive work as soon as possible, and not delay ourselves – as we are wont to do – with procedural niceties.

From the perspective of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a number of aspects of the document are of importance to us, in a national context, and we would like to highlight some of them:

- One would be the elimination of unwarranted procyclical conditionalities, in particular from the IMF, that would affect the flexibility to pursue the countercyclical measures employed in developed countries – and we can find this in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the outcome document;
- Special consideration of the challenges of middle-income countries and Small Island Developing States, and their specific needs, which we can find in paragraph 4 of the document;
- The need to reconsider and the need to mobilize an adequate share of any additional short- and long-term resources to be made available to developing countries; and the scaling-up of development finance to developing countries. This is in paragraphs 10, 14, 22 and 31 of the document;
- The need for development partners to meet their ODA commitments can be found in paragraph 28 of the text;
- The need for measures to mitigate the effects of the Crisis on the indebtedness of developing states and to avoid a new debt crisis can be found in paragraph 33 of the document;
- The need for equal, consistent and non-discriminatory treatment of all tax jurisdictions and financial centers, and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters can be found in paragraphs 38 and 56(c) of the document;
- And, of course, the ongoing need for further meaningful, far-reaching and substantive reform to the global financial and economic system and architecture, which of course exists throughout the document, as we are well aware.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.