[LEFT] Part I on Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves' speech to the United Nations General Debate; [RI
(The entire statement can also be viewed via RealPlayer by clicking HERE)

NEW YORK, NY, September 29, 2009 - Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines highlighted the challenges facing small states in the G-20 dominated world of today, in his address to the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Ambassador identified a number of key issues facing the Vincentian and the Caribbean people, including the global economic crisis, climate change, the global food crisis and the challenges of sustainable development.

Gonsalves added that the "invisible hand" of the market is still clasped firmly around the throats of poor countries, despite the fact that the global economic crisis was caused by the greed of the rich countries.

Ambassador Gonsalves stated that, in addition to the global economic crisis, the Caribbean region is also facing the challenges of climate change, the global food crisis and the challenges of sustainable development.

The Ambassador said his country noted the "irony of these paternalistic prescriptions from the same countries that have refused to implement the decisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that have declared illegal the subsidies that they pay to their farmers, thereby depriving our farmers of their livelihood."

The Vincentian envoy said that in addition to the "unholy trinity of exogenous assaults" on its development, the country has been experiencing the effects of the global economic crisis.

The citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would soon vote on a new constitution to transform th

[Click HERE to view a copy of Ambassador Gonsalves' Statement in .pdf format]

This article contains elements from reports of the UN News Centre, the UN Department of Public Information, I Witness News, Caribbean360.com, St. Kitts/Nevis Sun.