

MR. PRESIDENT, ILHAM ALIYEV,  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL,  
EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

## **INTRODUCTION**

**MR. CHAIRMAN,** THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, IDEALS AND THE VISIONARY SPIRIT OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AS ENSHRINED IN THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE HELD IN INDONESIA IN 1955.

IT IS EVIDENT THAT WE ARE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN TERMS OF WHERE OUR MOVEMENT IS AND THE POSITION IT IS PERCEIVED TO HOLD IN THE GLOBAL ARENA. THIS CALLS FOR INTROSPECTION AND HONEST SELF-EVALUATION.

WHILST WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE GENERAL REVITALIZATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SPHERE, IT IS KEY THAT WE ALSO ENSURE THAT WE RETAIN CREDIBILITY AND RELEVANCE.

HOWEVER, OVER 60 YEARS LATER OUR COUNTRIES ARE STILL CONFRONTED BY SEVERAL NATURAL AND MAN-MADE CRITICAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR NATIONS AND PEOPLES.

OUR MOVEMENT HAS ALWAYS ADVOCATED FOR A WORLD OF PEACE, JUSTICE, RESPECT, FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP, SOLIDARITY, COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL.

WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF OUR MOVEMENT BEAR MORE PREDOMINANTLY THE PRICE AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, FOREIGN DOMINATION, ARMED CONFLICTS, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES.

INDEED, MULTILATERALISM PROVIDES THE MOTIVATION TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ISSUES OF CONCERN SUCH AS POVERTY, HUNGER, CLIMATE ACTION, MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES AND

THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM, TO MENTION BUT A FEW.

**THEME OF THE CONFERENCE**

THE THEME OF THIS SESSION - "**PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**" - REAFFIRMS OUR COLLECTIVE DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS WORLD.

WE ALSO WANT JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETIES IN WHICH POVERTY IS ERADICATED, INEQUALITIES ARE REDUCED, THE ENVIRONMENT IS PROTECTED, HEALTH FOR ALL IS GUARANTEED, EDUCATION AND DECENT WORK ARE PROVIDED TO THE POPULACE OF THE WORLD.

**MR CHAIRMAN,** WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND AN INTERNATIONAL RULES-BASED SYSTEM AND CONDEMN UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST COUNTRIES OF OUR MOVEMENT AND THREATENING THE DIGNITY OF OUR PEOPLES.

SUCH ACTIONS ARE ISSUED IN VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, PARTICULARLY THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION, SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF STATES.

EACH MEMBER STATE HAS FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS WEALTH, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, POLITICAL DETERMINATIONS AND MUST BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE THOSE RIGHTS FREELY.

### **UNEVEN TRADE LIBERALIZATION BENEFITS**

**MR. CHAIRMAN,** GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISES CONTINUE TO ADVERSELY IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRIES, LEADING TO INCREASED POVERTY AND SLOWNESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

THIS IS WORSENERD BY CONTINUED UNEQUAL TERMS OF TRADE, REDUCTION IN FOREIGN AID AND ASSISTANCE, UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES

IMPOSED BY A FEW COUNTRIES, AND THE RE-EMERGENCE OF EXTREME NATIONALISM.

IN REALITY, GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION HAVE ACCRUED UNEVEN BENEFITS AMONG MEMBER STATES. MANY PEOPLE STILL FEEL LEFT BEHIND. IN FACT, SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME MORE VULNERABLE TO THE SHOCKS OF FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISES, CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SHORTAGES, AND ENERGY CHALLENGES.

### **RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES**

THIS SITUATION BECOMES BLEAKER AS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT CONTINUES TO DECLINE, ESPECIALLY FOR MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES SUCH AS ESWATINI, COUPLED WITH INCREASING DEBT BURDEN.

THE KINGDOM CONTINUES TO SEEK SUPPORT TO ENHANCE ITS RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES BY EXPLORING COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

THE INTEGRATION OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES PRESENTS SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS.

THESE EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT IN GENERATING NEW IDEAS, NEW INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS.

WE STRONGLY ADVOCATE FOR A REASSESSMENT OF THE REALITY OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WHEN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT IS CONSIDERED. TRADE MUST CONTRIBUTE TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOSTER GROWTH.

WE ALSO APPEAL FOR INCREASED AID TOWARDS TRADE AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN AND PROMOTE REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND INTERCONNECTIVITY.

WE COMMEND THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COUNTER AND ERADICATE THE SPREAD OF VARIOUS PANDEMICS LIKE EBOLA, HIV & AIDS, TB AND MALARIA, INCLUDING INITIATIVES FOR

CONFRONTING THE AFTERMATH OF NATURAL DISASTERS AROUND THE WORLD.

## **CONCLUSION**

**MR. CHAIRMAN,** PERMIT ME TO ONCE AGAIN HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOMMITTING TO WORKING TOGETHER AS THE ONLY AVENUE THAT GUARANTEES PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL OUR COUNTRIES.

WE CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT EACH OTHER AND WE NEED TO ENGAGE WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY WHILST SEEKING GUIDANCE FROM THE NORMS AND PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE EVOLVED THROUGH TIME, EXPERIENCE AND COLLECTIVE WISDOM. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS DESIROUS OF A RETURN TO UNITY AND CONFORMITY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

WITH ONLY 11 YEARS REMAINING, WE NEED TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS TOWARDS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.

WE URGE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF FINANCING, TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND CAPACITY-BUILDING TO MEMBERS OF OUR MOVEMENT.

THE KINGDOM IS DETERMINED TO BUILD THE AFRICA WE WANT, GROW OUR ECONOMY THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES, AND IMPROVE INTRA-AFRICA TRADE AS WELL AS TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

I WISH TO INVITE YOU ALL TO JOIN US IN THESE ASPIRATIONS AND TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLES IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN GENERAL AND THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IN PARTICULAR.

**I THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.**