

**ADDRESS BY
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OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS**

21 SEPTEMBER 2020

**Theme:
'The Future We Want, the UN We Need:
Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'**

[Embargo until delivery]

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem, Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Aalameen,
Wabihee Nasta'eenu 'Alaa Umuuriddunya Waddeen, Wassalaatu
Wassalaamu 'Alaa Asyrafil Mursaleen, Sayyidinaa Muhammadin
Wa'alaa 'Alihie Wasahbihee Ajma'een, Waba'du.

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,

At the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate us all on this momentous occasion to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

I also join colleagues in congratulating His Excellency Volkan Bozkir on his election as the 75th President of the General Assembly.

I extend the best wishes of my government and the people of Brunei Darussalam in the spirit of peace and solidarity, and our condolences and sympathies to all those affected by the COVID-19 virus.

Mr. President,

It is certainly a remarkable achievement for any grouping, let alone a large organisation like the UN, to have remained relevant for three quarters of a century.

This global body has actively engaged and carried out its mandates on matters of significant concern to all.

It reflects the commitment placed by UN members and the specialised bodies, who want it to work, and make the world a better place.

Over the years, we have faced many challenges and were able to resolve conflicts in Bosnia, Timor-Leste and closer still to us in ASEAN, in Cambodia.

However, the question of Palestine, terrorism, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and many others, remain work in progress.

And now, we are facing new unprecedented challenges in our lifetime like climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

If history has taught us anything, it is that, we could not have realised such achievements without the strong support and commitment from all nations.

Not by abandoning the UN when it becomes politically difficult, but by working together and by seeking convergence both at the national and international levels.

The UN is far from perfect, and the cost of maintaining it continues to rise every year.

Nonetheless, there is no other option available that can replace its role.

Therefore, we must continue to make it better, more cost effective and more empowered to support multilateralism and a world order

based on the universal rule of law, in ensuring this organisation remains relevant to us all.

Integral to this, is the commitment by all member states to ensure that every nation uphold and respect the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as enshrined in the UN Charter, and where small countries like Brunei Darussalam can rely on and have our voice heard as equals among all nations, big or small.

If this organisation fails, we would all fail, diminishing the hopes of more than 7 billion people.

It was in this spirit that my country joined this family of nations more than 35 years ago.

Brunei Darussalam continues its pledge to work together with all member states and carry out our commitment and responsibilities, as well as pay our dues, to ensure that the world and its people will continue to live in peace, to develop and progress.

Thank You.