

**75TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(UNGA)**

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING TO COMMEMORATE THE
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN**

ON

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRE RECORDED STATEMENT

BY

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PRIME MINISTER

Mr. President

Seventy-five years ago, the founding fathers of the United Nations pledged to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, and established conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be upheld. Mauritius was pleased to join the organization in 1968, when it pledged to uphold those values and principles.

Today, we happily celebrate the fact that world wars have been averted, millions of people, though not all, have become free of colonialism and are able to enjoy basic human rights and fundamental freedoms with access to amenities and facilities.

UN, as an organization, has been in the forefront in assisting those in dire needs, whether as a result of displacement or on account of conflicts or natural calamities.

The UN System deserves our utmost congratulations for this.

At the same time, there remains enormous challenges that continue to plague the world for many of which, our system has remained unprepared.

Acts by non-state actors such as terrorism, natural phenomena including climate change and Pandemics have put in evidence our lack of preparedness. These should constitute important lessons for us in the future. And the only way we will be able to address them is by working together collectively and multilaterally.

Other challenges such as those linked to cyber crime need to be assessed and remedial actions identified considering that the world today has become highly dependent on ICT.

We need to reinforce the organization by bringing about necessary changes that reflect the current economic and political configuration.

Reform is a process we must necessarily engage into if we want, in 25 years, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary with pride and satisfaction.

The UN needs to become an independent actor free from political influence and an effective guardian of international norms and standards, human rights and principles. It should be able to safeguard the rights of peoples, and ensure the respect for obligations arising from international law.

The UN is the only organization of its kind that we have. We owe it to future generations to make it work through our collective will.

Happy 75th Anniversary.
