

**Commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the United Nations organised by
United Nations Association of Mauritius on Tuesday 24th October 2023 at
13.00hrs at the Council Room, Town Hall of the
Municipal Council of Vacoas- Phoenix**

H.E Dr. Marie Ancia, Representative of World Health Organisation

Mrs. Ramchurn, Deputy Mayor Municipality of Vacoas-Phoenix

Councillors of the Municipality of Vacoas-Phoenix

Mr. Nundkeswarsing Bossoondyal, C.E.O Unite Nations Association of Mauritius

Members of the Press

Representatives of NGOs

All protocol observed

Ladies and gentlemen

“In a world that often seems divided by conflicts, inequality, and crises, the United Nations stands as a beacon of hope and unity. Today, on October 24th, we celebrate the 78th anniversary of the United Nations, a day dedicated to reflecting on its enduring mission to promote peace, cooperation, and international understanding.”

It is an opportunity to recognize how far we have come as a global community. It is also a chance to celebrate all of our differences by celebrating our common humanity.

The United Nations is committed to promoting and advancing the ideals of global peace, justice, human rights and the rule of law. Celebrating UN Day is a way to

recognize that these principles are essential for lasting peace and sustainable development.

Celebrating UN Day is also an opportunity to draw attention to urgent international issues such as climate change, poverty, gender equality, migration and more. By doing so, we can help raise awareness about vital topics that affect us all and find better solutions that benefit everyone.

It is a day to celebrate the achievements of the United Nations as it turns 78. The achievements of the United Nations are remarkable.

Since 1945, the United Nations has achieved many important milestones. It has helped to reduce conflict. It has offered humanitarian assistance to millions of people affected by natural disasters and other emergencies, and has been deeply committed to tackling the effects of poverty in many parts of the world.

One of the major successes of the UN has been the decolonization of many territories. The UN remains the platform where we can right the wrongs of History and complete the unfinished business of decolonization including that of the Mauritian territory.

In fact, where else, would the voice of Mauritius have found a more resounding echo for our just cause for the complete decolonization process of Mauritius?

But, however, so much remains to be done. New challenges have also emerged which have tested this organisation as much as its member states. One such is the

struggle against terrorism. Another challenge is climate change, where careful account must be taken of the risks facing smaller, more vulnerable nations.

Ladies and gentlemen

The United Nations was established to prevent war by binding us in a rules-based international order.

Today, that order is under great threat.

Millions of people in crisis look to the United Nations Security Council to preserve global stability and to protect them from harm, but the enormous human and economic cost of conflicts around the world shows how complex and challenging this is.

But most of today's conflicts are still essentially internal, even if they quickly take on regional and transnational overtones. They are fuelled by competition for power and resources, inequality, marginalization and exclusion, poor governance, weak institutions, sectarian divides.

At the 78th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, held last month, Our Prime Minister, Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, stressed about the vital role of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.

I quote **“Urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council and the revitalisation of the General Assembly are essential to strengthen the United**

Nations for future generations. Mr. President, Amidst the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the international community must relentlessly pursue peaceful dialogue. We commend African nations and other mediators for their vital role in this regard.” End of quote.

The world is now concerned with the most recent violence in the Middle East between Hamas and Israel and we need to advance efforts to avoid any spillover to the region. This most recent violence does not come in a vacuum. The reality is that it grows out of a long-standing conflict. It is time to end this vicious circle of bloodshed and hatred.

Ladies and gentlemen

The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. **Leave no one behind.**

However, according to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023, halfway to the deadline, that promise is in peril. The report shows we are leaving more than half the world behind.

Progress on more than 50 per cent of targets of the SDGs is weak and insufficient; on 30 per cent, it has stalled or gone into reverse. These include key targets on poverty, hunger and climate.

Mauritius has benefitted much assistance from the United Nations. The UNDP, has always worked closely with key stakeholders from the Government, the private sector and civil society in many areas and sectors, to implement several projects.

UNDP's support to the Government of Mauritius adopts an integrated and inclusive approach, covering environment, renewable energy, health, digitalization of the public sector, support to vulnerable groups, and SMEs.

Before concluding I must thank and commend the Mauritius United Nations Association for commemorating the 78th anniversary of the United Nations.

Since 1975, the organisation has been active with several annual programs related to UN aims and objectives as well as on issues regarding Mauritius. Their programs of activities are mostly connected with youth, students, women, disability, drug and substances abuse and elderly.

Ladies and gentlemen

United Nations Day is a reminder to us all. It reminds us that we are part of a big team, the world team. We need to work together, help each other, and make our world a better place.

So, on this day, let us remember the goals of the UN. Let us promise to be kind, to help others, and to work for peace. Because, just like in a team game, if we all work together, we can win.

Well-ordered charity begins at home. Let's join hands to ensure Peace and Solidarity in Mauritius.

Thank you