



Address By His Excellency David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the Fourth Arab – South American Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, November 11, 2015

Your Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz, King of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

- Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
- Your Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and Coordinator of the South American region
- Distinguished Delegates

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana, as a country on the continent of South America and a member of the Union of the South – UNASUR - is honoured to join you here at this important Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

We wish to commend, at the outset, the solicitous and generous arrangements put in place by His Majesty King Salman and the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the hosting of the Summit. Please accept the sincere gratitude of our delegation.

This Fourth Arab-South American Summit comes at a critical time in global affairs. It offers crucial lessons for successfully cultivating meaningful friendship, peace and mutually beneficial relations even amid disparate national and regional perspectives and challenges.

This *Summit* here reflects many timeless ideas and ideals that have inspired our efforts since the initiation of this bi-regional enterprise over a decade ago. The world today stands in even greater need of such collective efforts. This *Summit* signifies a renewed spirit of understanding and cooperation for mutual benefit and progress for our peoples, our governments and our continents.

This *Summit* will generate greater understanding, peace and solidarity in a world of growing inequality, insecurity and injustice. We all, as member states of the United Nations, have just embarked on the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development. We must be committed to the achievement of those SDGs for the benefit of our peoples and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Excellencies,

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana iterates its deep concern for the Palestinian people. We take the opportunity of this Summit to restate our principled position of support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle for their inalienable rights, including the right to statehood.

We need, also, to use this forum to pledge to deepen our cooperation to provide leadership and solutions to the wide array of challenges we face in common. We need to explore means of actualizing the prospects and promise of collaboration between Arab and South American countries and expanding South-South ties.

This *Summit*, in this regard, has afforded us, happily, the opportunity to reaffirm the core principles that have animated our cooperation. It has also reinvigorated our strong commitment to peace and to working together to expand the platform for a robust and meaningful partnership between our regions and peoples.

Your Majesty, Excellencies,

Guyana hails the growth and evolution in the Arab-South American partnership since the initiative of Luis Inacio Lula de Silva, the former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil – a large state with which we have a long and peaceful border and faithful friendship. It is a mechanism that can make even more pronounced contributions to issues of global importance.

Guyana looks forward to working with our South American colleagues and the Arab States in realizing the full potential of this bi-regional partnership and mechanism for cooperation and political coordination.

Let me again express in my own name and behalf of the Guyana delegation, our deep appreciation for the opportunity this meeting has provided. We have been able not only to enjoy the legendary hospitality of His Majesty and the Saudi Arabian people but we have also taken a further step in charting the course for even greater exchanges, closer friendship and meaningful cooperation.

Guyana is committed to ensuring that ASPA will continue to occupy a place of prominence in our economic and diplomatic outreach.

Guyana renews its assurance that, despite our small size, we shall remain a steadfast partner in this ambitious intercontinental project for peace and mutual respect between states

Guyana will work to secure greater successes in the relations between the Arab States and South American countries.

Peace be upon you all.

I thank you.