



Address

by

Brigadier David Granger, MSS
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
to the
Third International Conference on Financing for Development
Addis Ababa, 13 July , 2015

His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chair of the Conference;
His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
Mr Wu Hongbo, Secretary-General of the Conference;
Colleague Heads of State and Government;
Honourable Ministers of the Government;
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Heads of International Finance and Trade Institutions;
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The delegation of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is honoured and heartened to participate in this Third International Conference on Financing for Development. We express to you our gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the Ethiopian people and government and for the excellent arrangements prepared for our deliberations here today.

Addis Ababa is an internationally acclaimed iconic city of African liberation and unity and meeting in this historic city offers us all unique opportunities:

- We renew Guyana's solidarity with Africa and all other countries in their quest for sustainable development and to provide a good life for their peoples.

- We renew our country's commitment to cooperation with other states in the search for solutions to the challenges that beset us.
- We also renew our aspirations for prosperity, equality, dignity and security for all people everywhere.

Guyana has had the honour of working with Norway and our hosts, Ethiopia, as well as with the entire international community, on the preparation for this momentous conference. The draft outcome document submitted for our consideration is the result of painstaking labour to build a forward-looking framework and a solid foundation for global development efforts. We support its early adoption by this Conference.

We meet in testing times for the international community overshadowed by the lowering of global growth prospects by the IMF and the rising of political and humanitarian crises affecting millions of people across the globe. Our efforts here today are part of a continuum. We are building on earlier platforms – in Monterrey, in Doha, in Johannesburg, in Rio and in Samoa. We are, at the same time, projecting an ambitious agenda for sustainable development in the post-2015 era.

This *Third International Conference on Financing for Development* is more than merely a meeting to mull over the modalities of financing.

- It is about strengthening our confidence in the efficacy of multilateralism;
- It is about the collective exercise of our political will for the benefit of our peoples and our planet, now and in the future.

- It is about shaping the future we want for our peoples for generations to come.

Guyana is a small state that is committed to sustainable development. Ours has been a long and arduous quest to secure a good life for all our people. Our experiences have reinforced our resolve to build a more resilient economy, a more inclusionary democracy and a more cohesive society. We are committed to overcoming the common enemies of our people – crime, disease, ignorance and poverty. We share the objectives of this conference for sustainable development.

Security and stability are indispensable to sustainable development and the pursuit of prosperity. We resent, reject and resist the threat or use of force or any unilateral coercive attempt by one state against another in order to frustrate the legitimate aspirations of our people to enjoy a good life. The Charter of the United Nations and the tenets of international law must be guaranteed to all states and peoples in the quest for secure livelihoods and sustainable development.

Guyana, on the strength of this conviction, therefore, emphasises the primacy of international cooperation even as we embrace fully our primary responsibility for national development.

This *Third International Conference on Financing for Development*, therefore, must make a fundamental contribution to the thrust towards greater global cooperation as we embark on an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda that will seek to ensure that

no country or no community is left behind. We believe that there are some critical ways in which the contribution of Addis can and should be maximized.

First, we must renew global solidarity and our collective will to resolve global problems in a timely and effective manner. If we are serious about sustainable development then we must be serious in our quest for mitigating the effects of climate change. As a signal of confidence in the collective commitment to implementing the agenda, we will agree next September in New York and aim to reach in December in Paris, a once-in-a-generation agreement that will ensure that global temperature rise is contained within two degrees centigrade.

Second, we must acknowledge that, while Governments must exercise leadership, the requisite actions and investments cannot be executed by Governments alone. Other stakeholders must realise that their efforts will also be essential to delivering the future we want. The enterprise of development must count on the contribution of all segments of the society. It must empower local communities and harness the talents of the people, especially women and youth.

Third, it is clear that the achievement of the sustainable development goals will place heavy demands upon all countries. Our efforts to achieve the millennium development goals taught us that significant progress is possible when the international community works together. Developed countries must continue to exercise real leadership in fostering international development cooperation. Developing countries must

continue to intensify their own efforts. We applaud those countries that have been unstinting in their support and encourage others to do likewise.

We all must be ready to respond to the demands of our times. This requires making the investments to incentivize an irreversible paradigm shift in favour of sustainable development. It requires, also, a commitment to complete the unfinished work of the MDGs, including in education, health, water and sanitation and food security.

Guyana welcomes the emphasis of the draft outcome on these areas as well as the attention given to bridging the infrastructure gap, fostering sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism, the strengthening of the committee of experts on tax cooperation and the establishing of a dedicated forum within the United Nations to deliberate on the follow-up on issues for financing and development hold great potential to make the Addis Abba Action Agenda transformational.

Guyana is pleased to note the provisions contained with respect to the issues of concern to countries – such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS – in special situations. The challenges faced by middle-income countries, not least the large number of small states of the Caribbean, also deserve of the attention of the international community. For our region, the issue of debt is of particular concern, as are the terms of trade which often work against the interests of small states.

This *Third International Conference on Financing for Development* marks an important stage in our collective endeavour to secure a brighter and more sustainable future. Allow us to iterate our thanks for the opportunity which this Conference provides to renew ties of friendship and cooperation. We renew, too, our common resolve to build a brighter, more secure and more sustainable future for ourselves, our children and the generations to follow.

I thank you.