



President Ali's Address to the UN General Assembly

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Date Tue 9/29/2026 11:19 AM

To John Barsa <jbarsa@continentalstrategy.com>

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All,

On September 24, 2026, Guyana's President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressed the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. President Ali called for stronger multilateral institutions and international cooperation, stating:

"One year ago, I stood at this very podium and reminded this Assembly that if the United Nations is to remain humanity's surest hope for a just and peaceful world, it must have the courage to confront aggression and the will to engage fully with the defining questions of our age..."

Throughout the address, President Ali linked Guyana's foreign policy priorities to themes of international law, regional cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution. I would like to bring the following remarks to your attention:

Venezuela and the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

President Ali addressed Guyana's position on the border controversy with Venezuela and the ongoing ICJ process.

"Guyana has always advanced the peaceful settlement of the controversy in relation to our border with Venezuela. Despite the historical truth - clearly outlined in the Arbitral Award of 1899 that determined the full, perfect and final settlement of our border with Venezuela, we endured long and repeated provocations and aggression."

Shield of the Americas

Regional security cooperation featured prominently, particularly Guyana's participation in the Shield of the Americas initiative.

"Guyana is honoured to be a founding member of the Shield of the Americas, launched by President Trump in March 2026."

Since the founding of this initiative, Guyana has worked closely with the United States and thirteen other like-minded nations that believe in building a Western Hemisphere that values freedom, peace, economic

prosperity and have a shared responsibility and commitment to fighting transnational crime and criminal networks.

It is our collective responsibility to never allow our region to be overtaken by gangs or criminal networks.

We understand that it is only through partnership, shared intelligence, and cooperation that we can effectively tackle the threats they pose to our economies and the livelihoods of our citizens.

This week, I was pleased to join members of the Shield in adopting a Joint Communique which underscores our collective resolve to strengthen the resilience of our region in Economic, Security and Multilateral Coordination.”

Cuba

The speech also addressed Cuba, emphasizing support for a peaceful and development-focused path forward.

“We reiterate our call for a viable solution for Cuba, one that is peaceful, people centered, development focused and allows for the full aspirations of the Cuban people to be realized. Guyana reiterates CARICOM’s offer to play a meaningful role in achieving this objective.”

All the best,

John Barsa



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