



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

ADDRESS BY

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WITH FUNCTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of San Marino I congratulate H.E. Vuk Jeremić on his election as President of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly and I wish him a fruitful work. The San Marino delegation will assure you, Mr. President, its utmost cooperation during all works of the General Assembly.

I also express my country's gratitude to the outgoing President of the General Assembly, H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, for the excellent work carried out during the 66th Session. He distinguished himself for his leadership action in the difficult and complex issues that the United Nations had to face. He promoted the most important themes on the General Assembly's agenda with courage and determination, laying the foundations for solutions based on the widest possible consensus, and he constantly worked to strengthen the architecture of global governance.

My country also extends a special thank to the Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, for his energy and extraordinary determination in leading the United Nations. San Marino supports the priorities at the basis of the Secretary General's political action and his idea that the United Nations should play a key role in strengthening global governance, by creating new cooperation models able to manage today's challenges and the ever-increasing requests for change.

This Organization is in a unique position to provide solutions in deeply interconnected fields, such as development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian action.

San Marino appreciates the attention paid by the Secretary General to all UN member States, without any distinction, as well as his commitment in the field of reforms and his presence in all international politically relevant and emergency situations.

Among these, worth underlining is Secretary General's tireless commitment to finding a solution to the terrible Syrian conflict.

THEME OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr President,

I thank you for the theme chosen for this Session: "Bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means".

The Republic of San Marino strongly believes in the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. My country has always believed in the power of dialogue, democracy and respect for the others as values at the basis of peaceful coexistence among peoples.

In this respect, with reference to the recent bloody attacks on Western diplomatic Missions, San Marino intends to voice once more its firm condemnation of any form of violence. We don't believe that violence is the right answer when someone feels hurt in his personal beliefs or opinions, regardless of the gravity of the statements made. Human life must be always above everything and everyone.

These actions are even more reproachable when directed to institutions which are the emblem of international collaboration and mutual assistance and when States bear no responsibility for the statements made.

Our country is therefore grateful to the President for having chosen this theme, most of all at a time when the international scene is unfortunately characterised by ever-increasing and bloody conflicts. In this context, the role of the United Nations, and in particular of the General Assembly, for peaceful transitions and democratic solutions becomes even more fundamental.

For this reason, and because the international community is now called upon to face major global challenges in a consistent and rapid manner, the reform process of the United Nations is crucial for the future world stability and must remain the target of all our efforts. We have the duty to guarantee the full effectiveness of the Organization's activities, with a

view to preserving and strengthening its essential value as a point of reference for the international community and for any individual.

I have the pleasure to reiterate, also this year, the support granted by San Marino to the revitalization process of the General Assembly.

In this regard, I thank Georgia and Gambia as Co-Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the UN General Assembly for the report recently adopted, which is the outcome of considerable efforts and numerous informal meetings with the UN member States and the representatives of the various political groups.

This reform is particularly important for my country since the General Assembly is the most democratic body of the United Nations and, as such, it is the most adequate and sometimes the only forum where a small State can express its opinions.

The revitalization process of the General Assembly is fundamental to strengthen the architecture of global governance and must be an objective common to all member States.

Rationalization of the agenda and improvement of the methods of work of the General Assembly are important aspects of this reform, which is necessary to enhance the technical and administrative efficiency of this body.

But more important than that, the revitalization process should include the political role of the General Assembly and its authority, as defined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The reform of the General Assembly should also improve its relations with the other main bodies of the United Nations, in order to avoid duplication of functions and means.

The Republic of San Marino believes that the role of the General Assembly should not be limited to that of a mere body where resolutions are adopted. On the contrary, it should be a forum for exchange of ideas and debate, where solutions can be found to today's challenges and where a global consensus on issues of common interest can be reached.

In this regard, with a view to enabling the Assembly to fully perform its task, San Marino supports the prerogative of its President to organise thematic debates on the most relevant and urgent issues at an international level.

In this context, I underline the great importance attached by my country to the initiative of the outgoing President to organise, together with the UN Secretary General, the High-level Thematic Debate on "The State of the World Economy and Finance in 2012", which took place last 17 and 18 May here in New York.

The Republic of San Marino, together with Turkey, had the honour and the pleasure to be co-facilitator of this event.

This Debate was an efficient way to reaffirm the central role of the United Nations Organization, and in particular of the General Assembly, by enhancing its deeply democratic nature and its indisputable legitimacy in dealing with issues that affect the entire world community.

Mr President,

Four years ago the world economy suffered a devastating financial crisis, the consequences of which are still evident to all. A prompt response by the G20 and their central banks was able to avoid the worst effects of this crisis, but the situation is still precarious.

According to forecasts, many developed countries will experience stagnation and in some cases recession. Economic growth has slowed down in many other countries. Today, unemployment has reached the highest levels, in particular among young people and women.

Increases in the prices of food products and persistent inequalities contribute to higher poverty rates and cause increasingly violent social tensions. Problems connected with sovereign debts in Europe have further worsened global economic crisis. The crisis has severely hit many countries in the world, thus becoming one of today's major challenges also for our Organization.

It is now more than ever necessary to find new strategies, solutions and, more importantly, to create a sense of solidarity among our countries and peoples.

Mr President,

Also for these reasons, this year the organisation of a Thematic Debate on the state of the world economy and finance has been extremely important.

My country firmly believes that this exercise should be repeated also during this session of the General Assembly and probably also in the next sessions, at least until the crisis is overcome. Indeed, when we talk about revitalization of the General Assembly we think of a forum where all members of the international community have the opportunity to exchange their ideas on the most important and urgent themes, which have a global dimension and need a global response.

In our opinion, this Organization should play a leadership role in the promotion of fair and inclusive growth, sustainable development and elimination of poverty and hunger.

Mr President,

The reform of the Security Council is part of a wider reform of the United Nations and remains a central theme of the activity of the General Assembly.

Over the last few years, the Security Council has approved a growing number of peace-keeping operations and has been increasingly involved in extremely important issues concerning international peace and security. A reform of such body based on the widest possible political consensus is therefore necessary and must be carried out with the utmost commitment by all member States.

The Republic of San Marino is grateful to Ambassador Tanin for the wisdom and impartiality with which he has presided over intergovernmental negotiations on the reform.

Our country is convinced that intergovernmental negotiations, launched three years ago, still represent the right framework to find a solution taking into account the interests and positions of all.

Although the various groups of countries still express different positions, it must be recognised that some steps forward have been taken in the reform process.

San Marino believes that the reform should lead to an enlarged, more representative, transparent and efficient Security Council.

Moreover, it believes that the five strongly interconnected fundamental themes of the reform need to be considered as a whole.

Mr President,

Over the last few years, some new bloody and violent conflicts have broken out.

We also assisted to a massive popular uprising spreading across the squares of the cities in North Africa and the Middle East.

At the forefront of the Arab revolution were young people, educated and penalised by the exclusion from the labour market. The situation is still unstable and we are unable to imagine how the future of such countries will be. However, we must support them in the struggle for democracy, liberty and social justice.

Furthermore, today we are assisting to the Syrian conflict, the violence of which is unacceptable. There are clear reports on the atrocities perpetrated against the population: mass killings, rapes, summary executions, tortures. And children have been among the innocent victims of the massacres.

San Marino firmly condemns these atrocities, in the same way as it condemns any violation of human rights and international humanitarian law.

We hope that the Security Council will be able to reach soon an agreement on how to settle the Syrian crisis.

San Marino seizes this opportunity to express its most sincere wishes to H.E. Lakhdar Brahimi for having accepted an uneasy task.

The commitment of the General Assembly concerning the Syrian crisis reflects an important mission of our Organization: to keep peace worldwide and ensure respect for freedoms and human rights. The Republic of San Marino expresses its satisfaction with the adoption, last 3 August, of Resolution A/66/889, which we have co-sponsored.

Another important theme this year on the agenda of the General Assembly has been the improvement of disaster prevention and response.

This theme has recently gained greater importance in the political agenda.

Temperature increase, earthquakes and draught have caused unprecedented humanitarian disasters. Many populations have suffered food and health insecurity, thus becoming fully aware of their vulnerability.

Disasters are of course not only natural but also caused by human beings.

The international community must be able to rapidly and efficiently respond to emergency situations.

A fundamental way to reduce the risks connected with natural disasters is undoubtedly to invest in the most vulnerable regions in order to build the capacities necessary to prevent them, so that action is taken before disasters occur.

In the short term, however, it is essential to provide our political and financial support to face disasters.

In this regard, I am proud of the fact that my country, despite its small dimensions, is ranked 52nd among donors to CERF.

We are extremely grateful to the Secretary General, as well as to OCHA and CERF, for their rapid and fundamental action in favour of the populations in humanitarian emergency and for their substantial contribution.

Humanitarian and development issues, with particular reference to sustainable development, are inevitably intertwined and our success in providing an efficient response to natural disasters has certainly a direct impact on our capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Indeed, being this a global economic crisis, also responses must have a global dimension. On account of its universal character, the United Nations Organization must play a key role in the decision-making process on world economy and sustainable development, with a view to finding new solutions and to promoting a political consensus on these issues.

The Organization must play a leadership role in the promotion of fair and inclusive growth, sustainable development and elimination of poverty and hunger. In this context, San Marino welcomes the results of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) held last June in Rio.

The resolution entitled "The future we want", adopted by the General Assembly, has marked the conclusion of long and complex negotiations, at the end of which the States have finally recognised their common responsibilities.

Now the most important thing is that the commitments undertaken be respected so that the future wanted and written in the resolution will turn into reality.

Mr President,

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone is entitled to the same rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind.

Unfortunately, the world is characterised by a clear and direct relationship among disability, poverty and social exclusion.

According to estimates, approximately 15% of the world population is affected by disabilities and about two thirds of disabled people live in developing countries.

Many of them cannot actively participate in their societies. This is not only limited to developing countries. Indeed, women, men and children with disabilities are often victims of discrimination also in the richest societies.

San Marino was among the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This Convention and its optional Protocol cover a wide range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

My country is pleased that this Convention has been ratified by more than half the member States and hopes that it will soon be ratified by all.

Each country has the duty to fully implement this Convention. An effective and positive change in the lives of people with disabilities can only be possible if this Convention is fully implemented.

The Republic of San Marino congratulates the General Assembly on its decision to organise a High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development in September 2013 and hopes that this meeting will be a great success.

Mr President,

Today we all recognise and appreciate the fundamental role of women. Nonetheless, discrimination and violence to which women are still often subjected are among the major concerns of the United Nations.

In many countries, maternal mortality is still worrying, especially in the poorest areas of the world. Women are the most affected by HIV.

In many parts of the world, women continue to be subjected to atrocious and humiliating practices.

Improving women's conditions all over the world is our responsibility, a responsibility which all States must share.

To this end, in order to favour the empowerment of women, it is essential to guarantee women's access to schooling and education and to improve their participation in the political, social and economic life at all levels.

The Republic of San Marino welcomes the proposal to hold a Global Conference on Women in 2015, twenty years after the Beijing Summit.

Mr President,

Despite the fact that child mortality is decreasing, the most recent estimates show that in 2010 approximately 7.6 million children did not reach the age of five. Moreover, according to estimates, in 2015 about 72 million children will not have access to schooling. Recently, draught and food emergency in the Horn of Africa had a devastating impact on about 13 million people, in particular women and children. Almost 5 million young people between 15 and 24 are affected by HIV.

Children are still the most vulnerable group of the population and are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation. A huge number of children all over the world do not still have access to basic services, health care and education.

Besides facing global challenges, such as the economic crisis and the problems connected with climate change, States must find the resources necessary to best meet the needs of

children and to immediately improve the conditions of those living in the poorest areas of the world.

It is imperative for us all if we want to guarantee to the global community a future worth of such name.

Thanks.