



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

on behalf of the Government of San Marino, I wish to congratulate H.E. John W. Ashe on his election as President of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly.

His long experience as Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda and his in-depth knowledge of the Organisation are precious resources for the United Nations.

Mr President,
the Republic of San Marino supports the essential elements of your programme mentioned in your inaugural address and ensures full cooperation in all works of the General Assembly.

My country also wishes to express a special thank to the Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon for his energy, commitment and extraordinary determination to the benefit of the United Nations.

We appreciate the sensitivity demonstrated by the Secretary General towards all UN member States, without distinction, and his constant presence in all international politically relevant and emergency situations.

The visit paid this year by the Secretary General to our Republic, on the occasion of the Investiture Ceremony of Their Excellencies the Captains Regent, has marked a significant moment in the history and political life of our small State and has been an honour for San Marino people.

Mr President,

the theme chosen this year: "The Post 2015 Developing Agenda: Setting the Stage!" places at the heart of our debate the need to pursue the Millennium Development Goals, to comply with the obligations undertaken and to confirm that only through the convinced commitment of our Organisation can they be effectively achieved.

We believe that significant progress has been made in the attainment of many of these Goals, such as, for example, the eradication of extreme poverty, access to drinkable water, fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and the improvement of the health conditions of women and children.

However, we are well aware that the complete achievement of these Objectives is still far away and, despite the steps forward made, we are deeply concerned for those regions in the world, like sub-Saharan Africa, requiring urgent and effective action, or for those Countries experiencing conflicts and post-conflict situations, where the population lives in extreme conditions.

San Marino, like many other countries, believes that in setting the fundamental objectives of the Post 2015 Agenda, due account must be taken of the

challenges that in the course of last years, that is to say since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, have become more urgent.

Among all challenges, peace and security, the elimination of inequalities and environmental sustainability are, in our opinion, top priorities, not only among States but also within States, on account of their magnitude and urgent nature.

Peace is the indispensable condition to build a development model centred on the human being and its full promotion. Therefore, the search for dialogue and negotiation, as tools to resolve conflicts, shall be pursued with the greatest effort and determination by the whole International Community, which shall continue to consider this search a fundamental mission of our Organisation.

In the same way, when "crimes against humanity" are committed, crimes that also the Secretary General has recently denounced and documented, after a strong condemnation, a united action towards the elimination of chemical and nuclear weapons is needed in order to avoid responding to violence with violence.

Too many violent conflicts have characterised, also recently, the internal life of some States and the relations among them. There are far too many dead, in particular among civilians, to talk of a satisfactory condition of peace.

But peace can only be founded on respect for human rights, social justice and emancipation of the weakest segments of society.

Mr President,

the Republic of San Marino reasserts its commitment to the goal of a world free of any form of racism and racial discrimination, where freedom of expression and association, and first of all freedom of religion, are guaranteed and the personal fulfilment of individuals ensured. In this action, we shall be guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Also for this reason, San Marino praises the high-level Meetings marking the first part of the General Assembly Session, because the themes discussed are not only urgent but also extremely important.

The Republic of San Marino has always paid special attention to the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled.

Today, women are still the victims of discrimination and violence in many parts of the world, also in the most developed countries. In the poorest regions of our planet, maternal mortality remains a challenge. Moreover, women are the most vulnerable to HIV infection. Trafficking in women is far from being solved. Women are often subject to abuse and to humiliating and degrading treatments, such as polygamy, child marriage, kidnapping and sexual assault, including domestic violence. Women living in conflict and post-conflict situations are often subject to sexual violence, mass rape, torture, summary executions.

The advancement of women's rights, the elimination of all barriers to their full participation in the political, economic and social life must be top priorities for

the United Nations, along with the promotion of their economic opportunities and equality in all sectors.

The UN have the duty to protect children as the most vulnerable victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. In the most poverty-stricken areas of the world, infant mortality rate is still unacceptable and a very high number of children suffers from chronic malnutrition, which is the main cause of child death. My country hopes for the universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocols, and their full implementation.

The international community must strive for the full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in the economic, social and cultural life of the community. Despite the significant steps forward made over the last years in terms of equality and non-discrimination of the disabled, much remains to be done for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, through the adoption of legislative measures and national and international policies. The Republic of San Marino welcomes the organisation of the High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development and fully supports its final document.

In particular, it must be stressed that the protection of these people can be more easily achieved if the social and economic policies of single States and international organisations give due attention to the family institution, as the natural habitat where human beings are born and develop their awareness of the rights and duties regulating coexistence among people.

Lastly, among the various priorities my country also places environmental sustainability, prevention of and response to natural disasters.

Over the last years, some regions of the world have been shaken by unprecedented natural catastrophes. In Asia, Latin America, Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa, local communities have suffered from extreme conditions, experiencing the tragedy of their vulnerability, of food and health uncertainty.

Our thanks go to the Secretary General, OCHA and CERF for their prompt and crucial intervention in favour of the populations hit by natural catastrophes.

However, single Member States must do more and give rapid and effective support to populations in emergency situations, both by investing in the most vulnerable regions to build the capacities necessary for preventive actions, and by providing them with the moral and financial backing necessary to cope with disasters.

The Republic of San Marino attaches great importance to the issue of prevention of and response to natural disasters and, despite its small dimensions, it ranks 51st in the list of CERF donor countries.

This leads me to a final remark.

The finalisation of the Post 2015 Developing Agenda cannot transcend from a discussion on the strengthening of Global Governance mechanisms, since the

achievement of the new development goals is the result of cooperation among all member States.

In this regard, San Marino believes that the UN have the duty to retain their leadership role in the Global Governance management.

My country is a traditional co-sponsor of the annual resolution entitled "The United Nations in Global Governance", submitted in 2013 for the third time, which reiterates the need for a more inclusive, transparent and effective approach to solving world's problems and recognises the central role to be plaid by the UN in Global Governance.

Indeed, the highly democratic nature and the universal character of the United Nations grant the Organisation indisputable legitimacy and a patrimony deriving from the cultural diversities and the traditions it represents. This favours an approach focusing on man and the promotion of human rights, where the needs of the entire international community are taken into account.

Indeed, global problems require global solutions.

Against this background, our Organisation must be adjusted: the political role of the General Assembly and its authority, as well as the reform of the Security Council are the core issues of this reform process.

Today's requests from the peoples in North Africa and Middle East require a review of the working methods and decision-making process in order to guarantee solutions where the interests and positions of all interested parties are duly considered.

The Republic of San Marino has always believed in the force of dialogue, democracy and respect for the others. This is the reason why, in its century-old history, it has never fought any war. Drawing from this experience, we are of the opinion that - and this is our contribution to the general debate - the Millennium Development Goals and the definition of the Post 2015 Development Agenda need to be established in this perspective.