



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 and the people of the Republic of San Marino, I join the unanimous tribute paid to You on your election as President of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly by expressing my most sincere congratulations on your election to this high office. I am confident that you will be able to give new momentum to the process of renewal and reform of the United Nations Organization.

In particular, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing President, Her Excellency Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, who has carried out with determination and commitment an intense activity aimed at implementing the reform program undertaken by the Secretary-General.

Mr. President,

The Republic of San Marino is deeply concerned about the latest events in Myanmar and expresses its solidarity to the families of the victims. We hope that the violence will soon be stopped and a dialogue re-established.

Mr. President,

The Republic of San Marino firmly believes in the role and effectiveness of the entire structure of the United Nations, as well as in the process of progressive renewal of its main bodies, which is now more than ever necessary given time, evolution, and the need to best enhance the participation by the great family of the Member States in the management of the Organization.

A small Country like San Marino gains considerable strength and legitimacy from the major International Organizations to make its voice heard in support of the great issues and main challenges of our time. We are still determined to play this role and will continue to fulfil the commitments undertaken, individually or in partnership with other Countries, to affirm those principles of solidarity and protection of rights, in which our history is rooted.

In this regard, we believe that forms of cooperation among small Countries can prove undoubtedly useful to major projects and deliver positive and effective messages of multilateral cooperation, in a spirit of mutual belonging to an international community, however, still characterised by large gaps.

In this context, an example is the commitment taken by San Marino, together with a group of small European Countries, in favour of a UNICEF Project against HIV and destined to children living in Gabon. At the same time, the Small Countries are intensifying their contacts within the United Nations to adopt further joint intervention programs, mainly of a humanitarian character.

The Republic of San Marino promotes and supports, with the strength of its millenary history of civilisation, peace and respect for human rights, any call advanced at a national or international level entailing a moral and civil commitment to the affirmation of specific ideological and cultural identities, which – as is the case for San Marino – are based on the principles of serene coexistence and respect for others.

It is in this spirit that my Country believes in and actively commits itself to the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, as a fundamental instrument to prevent tensions and conflicts arising from intolerance and to promote peace based on the principles of respect for fundamental human rights, justice and international cooperation.

During its six-month Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which ended last May, the Republic of San Marino based its activity on the

promotion of a culture of tolerance and of mutual understanding by organising high-level meetings and debates, aimed at fostering dialogue among cultures and religions. In this context, the Conference organized last April in San Marino on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue in Europe, a priority issue of the San Marino Chairmanship, met with great success. This Conference was attended by the Representatives of the Council of Europe Member Countries, religious leaders belonging to the three major European monotheistic religions, and experts from the civil society. At the end of the works, the Conference adopted a final document, which testifies to the wide range of this debate and marks a significant moment in the process undertaken by the Council of Europe to promote, stimulate and develop intercultural dialogue in Europe, with particular reference to its religious dimension.

Among the initiatives taken in the last few months on this issue, worth mentioning is the meeting organised by the Permanent Mission of San Marino in New York on “dialogue between religions”, with the presence and participation of the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Representatives of more than 70 Countries. In line with its history of peace, which makes it an ideal place for meeting and mediation, the Republic of San Marino will coordinate, starting from next year, the future meetings of the Council of Europe on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue.

It is in this spirit that I will take part next week in the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, organized by the Presidency of the General Assembly.

My Country welcomes the adoption of this initiative, which further stresses the need to join our efforts in support of dialogue among cultures and religions, as an instrument to strengthen the climate of confidence indispensable to promote peace, prevent conflicts and combat the threat of discrimination, racism, violence and terrorism.

The Republic of San Marino is particularly sensitive to the issue of climate change, in the conviction that addressing this problem is an imperative for each member of the

international community, called upon to take action and share common strategies to prevent and face situations of degradation and extreme emergency, which are becoming increasingly evident and require joint actions that can no longer be postponed.

We witness alarming phenomena that are deteriorating every element of the environment, mainly due to human activities. It is therefore necessary to develop alternative strategies, which can protect the climate from the increasingly serious threat posed to the entire ecosystem, in particular where traditional investments continue to be made, although they are at the basis of more and more toxic emissions.

The San Marino Government has expressed its strong determination to progressively accede to the major international instruments, adopted in the framework of the United Nations, on environmental protection and gas emissions, from the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol thereto, to the Kyoto Protocol, in the awareness that the consequences of climate change are a serious obstacle to the achievement of the "Millennium Goals". At a domestic level, San Marino is preparing a legislation promoting new technologies based on renewable energy sources that will substantially modify the energetic and environmental habits of the entire Country.

Just a few days ago, the Secretary-General of the United Nations organized a high-level meeting on climate change, which gave further momentum to the activity of our Governments.

Worth reiterating is our strong stance against the death penalty on the basis of political and moral principles. Indeed, the death penalty denies the right to life and we deem it a groundless deterrent as does an increasing number of Countries, which are progressively abolishing it from their legal systems.

The Republic of San Marino expresses its satisfaction at the steps taken in this direction at a multilateral level and supports the new interregional initiative. We are convinced that by promoting first of all a moratorium, each and every Country can gradually achieve a moderate attitude and eventually reach the decision to abolish the death penalty.

San Marino fully shares the commitment undertaken on a global scale to achieve the Millennium Goals and is ready to offer its own contribution and its collaboration to eradicate endemic problems, by fully recognising the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable groups of society, such as the elderly, women, children and disabled people.

In this regard, I would like to underline, in particular, the value of the action carried out by the United Nations in favour of social policies addressed to persons with disabilities, which has led to the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. In this context, the Republic of San Marino was one of the first States to subscribe to these instruments.

To achieve these objectives, which were also among the main issues included in the programme of the recent Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, my Country has launched some awareness raising and effective intervention campaigns, such as the campaign on violence against women and in favour of children's rights.

I wish to refer, in particular, to the protection of children's rights, to which my Country pays special attention, prompted by the conviction that only the mobilisation of Governments and societies can save children all over the world from today's sufferings and from enduring conditions of underdevelopment and poverty.

My Country has promoted legislative measures and solidarity initiatives with the precious contribution of the Institutions and civil society and it commits itself at a political, moral and social level to providing any possible instrument of protection and guarantee in favour of minors.

It is in this spirit and in full agreement with the principles contained in the detailed Study on Violence against Children, drafted by Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, United Nations Expert, that the Republic of San Marino will soon sign the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Council of

Europe and aimed at involving the States in the drafting and implementation of an international plan to prevent and counter these phenomena.

San Marino is fully aware of the need for the United Nations Organization to maintain and strengthen its own articulated structure by revitalizing the main bodies through improved efficiency and progressive adjustment to a broader multilateral context.

In the light of the above and well aware of its status as a small Country, San Marino is however intensifying its activities within the major International Organisations. It has responsibly taken on the task of facilitator assigned to it and to Senegal by the President of the 61st session of the General Assembly in the revitalisation process of this organ.

This task, performed by the San Marino Permanent Mission in New York, attributes to this tiny State a delicate and important role at an international level, which certainly represents a significant recognition of the work done since 1992 (when San Marino joined the United Nations) to the present and of the commitment with which the Republic participates in the life of the international community, with its renewed efforts to enhance dialogue and cooperation.

The objective to revitalise the General Assembly is a priority in the reform and modernisation process of the main bodies of the United Nations, since the General Assembly is the main representative and decision-making body of the Organisation, where all States are “permanent members” and can and must play an important role, by virtue of the principles of democracy and equal representation enshrined in this Organisation.

The Republic of San Marino believes it necessary to strengthen the role of the General Assembly by enabling it to act efficiently and to cooperate with other statutory bodies in a more coordinated manner. In this regard, San Marino expresses the hope that, in order to fully support the activities of this body, which is responsible for the whole process of

standardisation and codification of international law, the international community will commit itself to increasingly receiving and implementing its resolutions.

At the same time, it reiterates the need to reach the broadest possible political agreement on the reform of the Security Council. This agreement should be the result of a concerted and open vision in view of any adjustments, which may be required in the years to come.

For many years, San Marino has constantly paid great attention to this issue of topical interest, because of its strategic and structural implications. In this regard, I believe that today the Presidency of the General Assembly deserves our unanimous gratitude for its Report, which represents an excellent basis to continue to consider this item on the agenda of the 62nd Session.

Mr. President,

On behalf of a State, the Republic of San Marino, which has always based its peaceful coexistence with other States and the spirit of its profound solidarity at a national and international level on aspiration for international peace and security, I would like to express my sentiments of complete confidence in the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations system. Each and every State must try to make a political and ideological contribution through concrete proposals to this system, on which every State continues to place high expectations because of the impact of its activities at a national and international level.

Allow me to conclude my speech by offering this large audience a brief reflection, by virtue of the fact that I come from a Country without any macro-economic or military interests, or any interests of political balance usually existing among great Powers.

I believe that the space and attention we will all devote to the commitment and contribution made by any State, even the smallest one, at an international level, can be a positive investment for the future of the United Nations, a future characterised by

increased understanding, closer cooperation and promotion of dialogue and mutual respect, upon which the foundations of this Organisation rest.

This renewed momentum will therefore provide large Countries with the opportunity to demonstrate their full respect for international justice and will show small Countries how useful their activities are in the community of Nations. Activities that translate into continuous efforts aimed at achieving peace, mutual understanding and better living conditions for all peoples.

With these hopes in mind, I express to you, Mr. President, my most sincere wishes for a successful Presidency of the major world assembly, while assuring you that you can fully rely on our support throughout the 62nd Session.

Thank you, Mr. President.