



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. PASQUALE VALENTINI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND
POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WITH FUNCTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

AT THE 69TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 27 September 2014

Check against delivery

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

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of San Marino, I would like to congratulate H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa on his election as President of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly and wish him a fruitful work. San Marino delegation will ensure you, Mr. President, its utmost collaboration during all works of the General Assembly.

I would also like to express my country's gratitude to the outgoing President of the General Assembly, H.E. John W. Ashe, for the work done during the 68th Session.

My country also wishes to extend a special thank to the Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, for the energy and determination with which he leads the United Nations, for his sensitivity towards all member countries, without distinction.

In particular, I wish to underline the importance of the Summit on Climate Change organised by the Secretary-General last 23 September in New York, which provided the Heads of State and Government with the opportunity to demonstrate their political will for a global agreement regarding this issue.

The Republic of San Marino offered its contribution to the works through the participation of its Heads of State, thus underlining the importance of these

issues and recognising the indissoluble link existing between climate change and sustainable development.

The effects of climate change, often dramatic, are one of the most serious threats to the future of humanity and a challenge that all States, in the framework of a joint action coordinated by the United Nations, are called upon to face with commitment and determination. We are accountable to future generations for our capability of achieving the objectives of environmental protection, energy saving and energy production from renewable sources.

Climate change is one of the causes of many natural disasters that have befallen our planet also in this last year. We need to respond effectively to the very serious and numerous humanitarian emergencies, which show a clear interdependence of the global threats facing humanity today.

A strong, rapid and coordinated response at the international level is now necessary to deal with the most serious outbreak of Ebola that has developed in some West African States and that has become a global threat. The most affected countries must not be left alone or isolated, on the contrary, they must be supported and helped. San Marino was among the co-sponsors of the recent resolution adopted by the Security Council, which highlights the need for an immediate mobilisation of the international community.

Mr. President,

Deeply touched by the problems at an international level, and in the light of the theme chosen for this Session - Delivering on and Implementing a

Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda -, we agree on the need for a renewed commitment to free the world from extreme poverty, inequality and hunger; however, we are aware that the full attainment of these goals is seriously compromised when peace and security, deriving from respect for the equal dignity of all human beings, are not guaranteed.

During this year, we have sadly witnessed too many events constituting a serious threat to peace, security and respect for human rights. It is therefore impossible not to feel the widespread perception of a weakening of the United Nations' capacity to intervene, and therefore of the fact that the mission led by the UN is called into question.

Let's now consider these events.

Since March 2011, the conflict in Syria has already caused more than 200,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands injured and forced millions of people to flee their homes and their countries to escape a war that shows unlimited forms of cruelty and ferocity.

The Republic of San Marino has strongly condemned and still condemns the violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed in Syria by all parties in conflict, without any distinction.

The recent recrudescence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has claimed, during the last period, the lives of more than a thousand civilians, among whom many women and children, mostly Palestinians, including those who had found refuge in UN schools.

San Marino Government and Parliament have launched appeals to both parties, so that the guns are silent and are overridden by the desire for dialogue, knowing that dialogue is the only way to achieve a peaceful coexistence of the two peoples.

The situation is very serious in Iraq, where there is an ongoing ethnic and religious cleansing carried out with unprecedented violence: in the name of religion, systematic and massive violations of human rights are perpetrated, only partially documented and proven, which constitute aberrant crimes against humanity. A coalition of States is jointly reacting: San Marino expresses the hope that interventions are coordinated under the auspices of the United Nations.

In particular, the Republic of San Marino welcomed with satisfaction and co-sponsored the resolution on Foreign Terrorist Fighters, unanimously adopted by the Security Council on 24 September, under the leadership of the US President Barack Obama.

The war that is being fought in some parts of North Africa is causing the migration of thousands of desperate people who, every day, depart to Europe in the hope for a safe landing, a migration which, unfortunately, often turns into tragedy.

The Mediterranean is continuously witnessing a massacre of migrants from many areas of Africa and Asia; the data provided by the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees show, if ever it were needed, all the tragedy of the situation, but also the need for a better shared European action to tackle it.

Added to this has been the crisis in Ukraine during this year, which represents a serious threat to peace and security in the entire European continent, not only because of the large number of victims, but also for the fact that the fundamental principles, such as territorial sovereignty and self-determination of peoples, are called into question.

These events strongly call for the presence of the United Nations and urge the entire international community to immediately give back to this Organization the capability to intervene, in order to protect the citizens of the entire world through the peaceful resolution of disputes among States, as enshrined in the UN Charter and in numerous resolutions of the General Assembly.

These events also highlight the need for a reaffirmation of our Organization's profoundly democratic nature, so that each State, either large or small, can make its voice heard and contribute to the works and resolutions of the United Nations.

These events require that cultural and religious differences and the multiplicity of traditions represented within our Organization do not constitute an obstacle to the search for possible solutions; on the contrary, they should be a valuable resource enabling to adopt an approach capable of harmonising the interests of the whole international community.

We feel the duty and responsibility to work tirelessly for the definition and implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda; however, given the seriousness of this international scenario, a simple call is not enough.

On the contrary, precisely because the full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as it is also expressed in the report, was often prevented by the lack of integration between economic aspects and social and environmental issues, we are convinced that we need a new impetus, a new beginning to restore those elements able to promote, within our communities and populations, a culture of life, tolerance, acceptance and solidarity. The first element of this process aimed at building a culture of inclusion is the family.

The recognition of this urgency must lead to a common commitment and to a renewed consideration that all States should promote the protection and support of the family; indeed, this is clearly the place where the main relationships governing human coexistence are generated and developed, and for this reason the weakening and marginalisation of the family are often the cause of the great existential confusion in the younger generations and of all numerous and serious personal and social consequences of this.

Mr. President,

With this spirit and with great determination, each State must feel the responsibility to leave no stone unturned so that this amount of conflicts, which Pope Francis has called "Third World War", does not prevail and therefore nullify the plan of a balanced development for the third millennium, as it should be defined in the Agenda. San Marino is a small State that has

always considered, in its century-old history, freedom and peace as the supreme goods to be preserved and protected; based on this identity, it is honoured and proud to offer its contribution to the Community of the United Nations.

Today, with humbleness but also firmly, we would like to launch this appeal: let's make every effort to give back to the United Nations the strength and authoritativeness to be the reference point so strongly needed today.

Thank you.