



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

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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 would like to congratulate H.E. Peter Thomson on his election as President of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly and to wish him a fruitful work. The 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, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, for the work done during the 70th Session.

At the end of the last year of his second term as Secretary-General, my country would also like to extend special thanks to H.E. Ban Ki-moon, for the energy and determination with which he has led the United Nations, for his sensitivity towards all member countries, without distinction.

Mr. President,

The theme chosen for this session, "The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world" provides an interesting incentive to bring a constructive contribution to the Assembly.

The level of complexity and the degree of interrelation of the challenges that the United Nations is called to face today is unparalleled in the history of this Organization. The

United Nations must adapt quickly to new global challenges, but also to the new opportunities offered by globalization, in order to be more effective in carrying out its mandate. At the same time, the very complexity of global challenges, which, as such, cannot be solved by individual States, unequivocally reaffirms the value and the central role of the United Nations as a forum for solving global problems.

In this sense, the Secretary General's determination in submitting to the Organization a proposal of adaptation and, simultaneously, in requesting the same adaptation from member States must be acknowledged. This is why many of the initiatives undertaken have yielded significant results during his mandate.

The adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which took place in September last year, in the presence of many Heads of State and Government, including Their Excellencies the Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, was one of the most important moments in the history of the United Nations.

This ambitious Agenda integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Being the expression of a strong political consensus on the approach to a sustainable, global and innovative development, the Agenda defines our future and the vision of the world we want to live in.

The transformation process towards a new model of sustainable development is now under way: our country appreciates the commitment shown by Member States for the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020; it also attaches great importance to the Addis Ababa action program and to the monitoring mechanism identified in the High Level Political Forum.

The real challenge today lies in the firm will to effectively implement this vision. This is the answer that the peoples we represent in this forum expect: that our Organization fulfils its mandate of protecting the citizens of the world and that Member States assume their responsibilities, without letting national interests prevail over the ideals of solidarity and respect for the universal rights of every human being. Any hesitation to do so inevitably entails the heavy toll of destruction and loss of human lives.

Mr. President,

Over the past years, we have unfortunately witnessed a series of events that constitute a very serious threat to international peace and security and therefore an obstacle to the full fulfilment of our mandate. We are facing the persistence of wars that have caused an unprecedented global humanitarian crisis, an increase in terrorism and violent extremism, the tragedy of the large movements of migrants and refugees, as well as a rise in populism and intolerance.

The conflict in Syria, which continues uninterrupted since March 2011, has already caused more than 270,000 deaths, of which over 13,000 are children and more than 8,000 women. To these figures, hundreds of thousands of injured people must be added. Inevitably, the humanitarian situation in Syria has deeply deteriorated. Most of those who need primary care, in particular women and children, live in besieged areas, which cannot be reached by humanitarian convoys.

In five years, the Syrian conflict has caused 4.8 million refugees in neighbouring countries, hundreds of thousands in Europe and 6.6 million displaced people inside Syria itself, compared to a population of over 20 million people before the war.

More than 130 million people worldwide need humanitarian assistance as a result of armed conflicts and natural disasters. In Syria, for example, more than 13 million people need humanitarian assistance because of the war. In Yemen these are more than 20 million.

The Republic of San Marino has always strongly condemned any violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws perpetrated in Syria by all parties in the conflict, without any distinction. Violations that, unfortunately, are still occurring today while we are here united to state our commitment to peace and security.

San Marino supports the action of the Secretary General in Syria through his Special Envoy and expresses its appreciation for the work carried out.

In recent months, also San Marino, well aware of the extreme seriousness of the world situation and of the need for each international stakeholder to play its part, has contributed concretely to address the present humanitarian emergency. Besides providing its financial contribution to the international programs, San Marino has joined the project of humanitarian corridors promoted by the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical churches and the Waldensian church, supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has hosted some migrants in the Republic of San Marino: a small contribution provided by our micro State with great determination.

It is therefore necessary to have a "united approach" that, combining the "long-run approach" contained in the sustainable development goals with a "short-run approach", allows to address the emergencies that are evident to all.

This united approach can only result from a big cultural change based on the awareness of belonging to one human family and recognizing, as a consequence, the culture of understanding and of peaceful coexistence among different peoples and cultures as the only way to face the challenges of globalisation, without excluding anyone, but, on the contrary, building together a planet for all.

With a view to fulfilling this mandate, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the Secretary General for having placed the protection and promotion of human rights at the core of his agenda.

Today, we can say that this is a cross-cutting issue and that human rights are reflected in every action of the United Nations aimed at achieving peace, security, justice and sustainable development. We will have a valuable resource, harmonizing the interests of the international community, instead of hindering possible solutions, only if we recognize and fully share the inalienable value of the person, in whatever condition or stage of life, the cultural and religious differences and the many traditions within our Organization.

In this perspective, promoting full respect for individuals is not just one of the many goal but, on the contrary, the foundation upon which our actions must be based, in order to eliminate poverty, share prosperity, offer decent work to all and ultimately protect our planet.

The work of the UN and its specialized agencies contributes to the affirmation of the culture of respect for fundamental rights, mutual knowledge and understanding, tolerance and hospitality. This is the culture that we, the Member States, must strive to

spread among our citizens, starting from the youngest, because only with the affirmation of such culture will the objectives set out by our Organization be achieved.

The Republic of San Marino, in accordance with its history and its tradition of freedom and democracy, firmly believes in this mandate and will support any action that helps strengthen the United Nations in this process.

Thank you!