



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

ADDRESS BY

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OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

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Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you on your election at the head of the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly and to assure you that the delegation of the Republic of San Marino will offer the utmost collaboration throughout the session.

In my first speech before this Assembly as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of San Marino, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to the Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, for guiding this Organization with great energy and extraordinary dedication. I wish to mention his admirable commitment in the field of reforms and his constant and important involvement in the world affairs.

The United Nations reform process is fundamental to future world stability and must remain a priority in our efforts, not only because we have the duty to guarantee that the Organization and all its activities are fully effective, but in particular in order to preserve its primary and essential value. We cannot afford to witness a decentralisation of the substantial role of the United Nations caused by the impossibility to reach an agreement on the measures to be implemented for the improvement of its functioning.

Moreover, I would like to express the appreciation of San Marino for the work accomplished in the General Assembly with the contribution of all UN member States, as well as for the attention paid to particularly relevant issues, such as the world economic and financial crisis, climate change and the global food crisis.

(REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Mr. President,

The Republic of San Marino supports the revitalization process of the General Assembly.

The revitalization of the General Assembly is a necessary political reform to reaffirm its role as the most representative body of the United Nations, as well as the role and leadership of its President.

San Marino believes that the reform should make the activities of the General Assembly more efficient and effective, improve its relations with the other main UN bodies to avoid duplication of work, and aim at the effective implementation of its resolutions.

(REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL)

The reform process of the Security Council, which the Republic of San Marino has been following with commitment and interest since the beginning, is also very important. We are grateful to the Afghan Chair for the important activity carried out and for the way in which it has presided over the intergovernmental negotiations aimed at reaching the widest possible political agreement concerning Security Council reforms.

San Marino believes that the aims of the reform should be to make the Security Council more democratic, transparent, efficient, accountable and representative, to restore the balance between the Security Council and the General Assembly and to enhance its cooperation with the Secretariat. It is important that this process

allows for the development of a sense of belonging to the Security Council among all member States, thus avoiding the risk that it could be perceived as an isolated body within the United Nations.

Moreover, the reform should take into consideration the legitimate interest of all States, big and small, to be elected to the Security Council.

San Marino participates with commitment and interest in the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council and regrets that, to date, no reasonable compromise has been reached, in order to make it more representative, democratic and possibly less paralysed by crossed vetoes concerning fundamental issues.

(GLOBAL GOVERNANCE)

The reforms of the General Assembly and the Security Council are encompassed in a wider process of transformation and strengthening of the role of the United Nations within the Global Governance system.

San Marino believes that the United Nations Organization plays and must continue to play a pivotal role in managing the Global Governance system and the UN reform process must be aimed at reaching this objective.

Today's world is characterised by marked differences in terms of power, wealth, income and social wellbeing among nations and peoples and within individual nations. Unfortunately, the world is beset by numerous ethnic and interreligious conflicts, which are sometimes fuelled by economic and geopolitical factors originating outside the area of the conflict. Moreover, global warming, which is

also a consequence of an indiscriminate energy consumption in developed and developing countries, is one of the major cause of disasters leading, among others, to a reduction in agricultural yields in tropical and subtropical countries. This year, in particular, the world economy has undergone one of the most devastating financial crisis in history, whose consequences are clear to everyone.

These challenges can be faced only through a global and coordinated action and the United Nations have the responsibility and the duty to be at the centre of this process. Only by means of the rich and different cultures and traditions represented by the United Nations it is possible to manage the Global Governance system in such a way as to achieve human and sustainable development. The fact that the United Nations Organization may relinquish its role as leader of the Global Governance system in favour of other bodies would be a defeat for all.

(THEME FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT)

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, the widespread poverty affecting such large percentage of global population causing hunger, disease and underdevelopment is one of the most endemic problems that, despite the efforts made and the commitments undertaken at a world level, continues to plague the whole planet.

San Marino values the efforts and success of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) over the last sixty years and is proud to host President Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General, as the official Speaker at the Investiture Ceremony of the new Captains Regent, the Heads of State of the Republic of San Marino, which will take place next 1 October.

Mr. President,

San Marino endorses the Millennium Development Goals – which have unfortunately become more difficult to achieve because of the crisis we are currently facing – and believes we must continue in our commitment.

The strengthening of multilateralism, included by the President in the theme proposed for this General Debate (*Effective responses to global crises: strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilizations for international peace, security and development*) is, in my opinion, a central element. In fact, the International Organizations, and the United Nations in the first place, promote the affirmation of democracy, rule of law, freedoms and human rights as a condition for economic and social development, cultural growth and education.

(WORLD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS)

Mr. President,

The current world economic and financial crisis is the greatest global disaster since the very existence of the United Nations, all the more because it has added to a severe food crisis affecting many regions of the world. As this crisis indiscriminately concerns all countries and regions, it is now one of the major challenges our Organization has to face.

The Republic of San Marino, as a small State, attaches great importance to the role of the General Assembly in the lives of our nations, has welcomed the High-Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and has supported the outcome document, which is the result of long and complex negotiations.

This communication represents the beginning of a process, first of all of a social and cultural nature, aimed at making all citizens of our Country aware of the need to face climate changes and effectively commit to reducing as much as possible the impact of these changes.

(TERRORISM)

Mr. President,

Among the most serious challenges we have to face at national and international levels, terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is primarily important.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, represents a fundamental initiative, because for the first time all member States have agreed to a common strategic and operational approach to counter terrorism. Such strategy has laid the foundations for a coordinated response to this emergency, by envisaging preventive measures and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. It also recognises that counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, on the contrary, they are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

However, an effective response to terrorism must also be based on education to understanding and respect for each other, as a sine qua non condition to achieve justice and peace. Indeed, hatred, lack of understanding and injustice provide a breeding ground for terrorist groups and organisations to recruit new members.

(HUMAN RIGHTS)

Mr. President,

My Country attaches great attention, both at national and international levels, to the promotion and protection of human rights, with a special attention paid to those of the weakest and most vulnerable groups.

I am pleased to recall that this year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November 1989), a fundamental instrument ratified by a high number of States.

However, we must not forget that still today 9.2 million children under the age of five die every year from largely preventable causes and more than 100 million school-age children do not have access to education. Furthermore, many children are robbed of their childhood, are victims of sexual violence, are used by armies or armed groups as soldiers or sold as sexual slaves.

San Marino applauds and supports the United Nations and UNICEF for the efforts undertaken worldwide in order to improve the life of these children.

We also actively endorse the United Nations commitment to women's rights.

Finally, the protection of human rights is strictly connected with the need to guarantee every human being and every population the possibility to live in peace and justice. It is therefore necessary to give new momentum to the disarmament process. In this regard, an important step was taken last year by adopting the Convention on Cluster Munitions, an instrument that will prove essential to protect the affected populations from these weapons having devastating effects on civilians. The Republic of San Marino attaches great importance to this Convention, focused on human dignity and the interests of victims, hopes that the