



SENEGAL

COURTESY TRANSLATION

SIXTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MACKY SALL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

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Check against delivery

**Your Majesties,
Your Highnesses,
Excellencies, Heads of States and Governments,
Mr. President of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegations
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to begin by extending my congratulations to H.E. Mr. **Vuk Jeremic** on his election as President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly, and wish him every success.

I would also like to commend Ambassador **Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, President of the 66th Session, for his positive contribution to the proceedings of the General Assembly.

To the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, I would like to reiterate the encouragement and support of Senegal in the conduct of his delicate mission for our Organisation.

On 25th March 2012, in a two-round, keenly contested presidential election, the Senegalese people, inspired by its values of democracy and freedom, calmly and serenely voted massively, by over 65%, for change and the respect of Republican norms.

We were supported by friendly countries and organisations in that great adventure for the consolidation of our Democratic tradition, especially for the improvement of our election instruments and the supervision of the different stages of the process.

I would like to express, here, my deep gratitude to all those who supported that process.

In my capacity as Senegal's newly elected President, let me reiterate our faith in our shared values and in the mandate of the United Nations to promote, through cooperation, the advent of a better and friendlier world for all.

Building a better world entails, undoubtedly and above all, working together for peace to reign among and within our peoples, as suggested by the theme of this Session: **"The Adjustment or Settlement of International Disputes or Situations by Peaceful Means"**.

Born out of the ashes and ruins of war, the United Nations is the expression of the dream and hope for a World free from the spectre of antagonism and ridden of a Manichean view whereby the good would be on one side and the bad on the other.

Sixty-seven years on, between mediations and good offices, between conciliations, arbitrations and peace missions, the United Nations has considerably contributed to the pacification of international relations.

Yet, sixty-seven years on, although commendable progress has been achieved, threats to peace and security remain nonetheless worrisome and have deeply evolved in nature.

This is the case in Northern Mali, where organized and heavily armed terrorist groups, living off all sorts of trafficking, have been occupying in complete illegality two thirds of the country, sowing despair among the population and destroying symbols of World Cultural Heritage.

Northern Mali has become a lawless area, used as a safe haven for recruitment and training by the international terrorist nebula, which wrongly uses Islam as a pretext to disguise its criminal activities, and seeks to attack foreign interests as well as reach other countries of the region and the world.

As guarantor for the collective security of Member States under the UN Charter, the Security Council has the obligation to act in order to bring an end to such a situation.

Otherwise, the Security Council will not have lived up to its responsibilities.

Therefore, we are calling again on the Council to authorize all actions required to combat those terrorist groups and restore the country's territorial integrity.

In addition, I am reiterating our firm rejection of any partition of Mali and our condemnation of the 22nd March 2012 Military Coup.

It is our conviction that in Africa as elsewhere, the place of the Army is in the barracks under the command of a civilian authority.

As for Guinea Bissau, like other ECOWAS Member States, we appreciate the efforts made by the Transitional Government towards national reconciliation, the reestablishment of the country's institutions, the organization of credible elections and the definite withdrawal of the Army from the political arena.

Already distressed by years of institutional and economic instability, Guinea-Bissau is also faced with the issue of faithless and lawless foreign drug traffickers. The country deserves the attention and support of the international community.

The same holds true for Palestine.