



# SENEGAL

## COURTESY TRANSLATION

SIXTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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### STATEMENT

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

*New York, 25 September 2012*

*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 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, and wish him every success.

I would also like to commend Ambassador **Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, President of the 66<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

In its capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Senegal restates its support for the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its Capital and sitting here among free Nations.

A viable and independent Palestine State, living in peace with the State of Israel, each within secure and internationally recognized borders, is one of our oldest promises we have not yet fulfilled.

Its fulfilment remains, however, the only guarantee for a peaceful, fair and lasting settlement of the Middle East crisis. In the interest of all the peoples of the region and the world, it is high time that the Holy Land of the three revealed religions no longer be a land of fire, blood and tears ; because the light of wisdom emanating from its spiritual calling makes it instead a land of peace and human fraternity.

In Africa as in the rest of the world, Senegal welcomes and supports the progress of democracy and fundamental freedoms.

However, we are deeply concerned that some leaders, denying the obvious fact that the destiny of humankind is to live free, have only chosen to offer, in response to the legitimate aspirations of their people, appalling violence against innocent civilians.

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The peaceful settlement of disputes, which rightly comes to the attention of this Session, should not however overshadow other emergencies and unmet needs.

Today, more than ever before, we are living in an era of paradoxes and unanswered questions.

The paradox of our time is that never before in human history, has the world accumulated so much wealth; and never before in human history, has the world counted so many poor.

**So, which world for tomorrow?**

The question may be troubling, but, if to govern is to foresee, we cannot dodge it.

**What kind of world do we want,** when, twenty years after the Rio Earth Summit, it is a proven fact that continuous environmental degradation as a result of human action threatens to jeopardize living conditions on earth?

**What kind of world do we want,** when, according to FAO estimates, more than 900 million people suffer from undernourishment when agriculture has the potential to feed more than twice the Planet's population?

**What kind of world do we want,** when, in our towns and villages, millions of human beings have no access to basic social services, and millions of women die while giving birth?

**What kind of world do we want,** when millions of young people, after years of studies, efforts and sacrifices only find, instead of accomplished dreams, the nightmare of unemployment and indignation as an outlet for their distress?

**What kind of world do we want,** when millions of workers, fathers and mothers, who earn the minimum wage, suddenly find themselves out of work because the company has gone bankrupt and the main responsible gets off scot-free with a "golden parachute" as compensation?

In a time of so many challenges, both old and new, the course of history has shown us that paradigms have changed and that old solutions will definitely not work.

We need to redefine our priorities, invest in the real economy and agree on a new fairer world order. In this prospect, the African Continent, which has endured centuries of slavery and exploitation, cannot afford to act again as a Trojan horse and give over its resources in a competition that would push it further to the margins of progress and well-being.

We call for another vision of relations with Africa, a vision where it will not be about treating of Africa and the Africans, but dealing with Africa and the Africans in a concerted and more equitable partnership, because taking into account the priorities and the interests of everyone.

This is what we wish for, here in the United Nations.

This is also what we are calling for in the relations between NEPAD on the one hand, the G8, the G20, and other partnership mechanisms, on the other hand.

As for Senegal, beyond the demands of democracy and good governance on which we agree, our priorities must, more than ever, focus on Agriculture, Infrastructure and Energy.

This is the only path to progress; progress that changes qualitatively people's day to day lives without which the efforts of development and consolidation of democracy in our countries will remain uncertain.

#### **Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen**

With respect to the reform of the Security Council, Senegal reaffirms its attachment to the African position expressed in the Ezulwini Consensus.

Africa, a continent which counts the largest number of countries at the United Nations and whose problems take up most of the work of the Council, should be represented therein fairly, is a matter of justice and common sense. Indeed, the democracy required from States is also requisite for the Organization that embodies them.

To conclude, I hope, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, currently chaired by Senegal, to renew our faith in the dialogue for pacific coexistence of religions, cultures and civilizations.

Entering into Dialogue for learning to live together is about recognizing and respecting our differences as a source of wealth and not of confrontation.

It is about refusing the defamation of religions and violence in all its forms. It is also about renouncing any thought of domination of one culture and one civilization over the others.

Last but not least, it is about promoting mutual understanding in order to overcome the feeling of suspicion and fear, often unfounded that alters our common humanity.

When celebrating the "**Civilization of the Universal**" advocated by my illustrious compatriot, the late President and Poet Leopold Sedar Senghor, Man will stop "**being evil for man**", as would say Thomas HOBBS, and will become as the saying goes in our country, "**a remedy for Man**",

We owe this to ourselves, particularly to future generations.

I thank you all for your kind attention and I wish you a most successful Session.