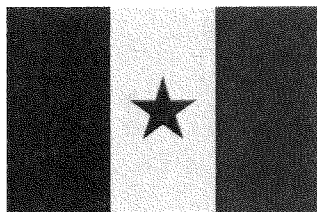


# **RÉPUBLIQUE DU SÉNÉGAL**

**Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi**



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## **SIXTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**ADDRESS BY  
H.E. MR. MACKY SALL,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

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**New York, 25 September 2013**



**Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of the Senegalese delegation, I express my best wishes of success to Ambassador **John William Ashe**, President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

By focusing its debate on the post-2015 development programme, the General Assembly reminds us that there is not much time left before the final evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite the progress registered after more than a decade of MDG implementation, the magnitude of the challenges is still overwhelming.

The daily lives of close to a billion people have barely improved with regard to access to food, housing, education and health care.

Women continue to die in childbirth.

Inequalities persist within and between countries.

The economic crisis is getting worse.

We need to take concrete and resolute actions to translate our collective ambition into reality.

In the quest for sustainable development, the Paris Climate Conference, scheduled for 2015, will provides us with yet another opportunity to pull ourselves together, by reversing the negative trends affecting the Planet Earth, our common habitat.

Addressing the sustainable development challenge and building the future we want, in the spirit of Rio+20, require much greater efforts than the fight against poverty.

We should invest more in education, training and youth employment, modernize agriculture, make electricity accessible to all, develop infrastructure to foster trade and investment. These are the pillars that underpin growth and prosperity.

It is precisely this vision that NEPAD seeks to promote through its Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (**PIDA**).

Under the PIDA, Africa identified 51 priority projects throughout the Continent, for the overall cost of 68 billion dollars in the 2012-2020 period.

As Chairman of NEPAD's Orientation Committee, I am pleased with the consensus built around the PIDA by our partners, notably at the BRICS, G8 and G20 Summits.

I also welcome the strong signal given in June, by the G8 in Lough Erne, for a concerted action against tax evasion and other fraudulent practices that affect our economies.

We must now forge ahead and establish the agreed mechanisms to improve transparency in international transactions, including the extractive industry.

This is the best way to support Africa's efforts to mobilize domestic resources to finance its development.

By the same token, Senegal calls for the reform of international economic and financial governance, notably the conditions of access to credit and for the financing of economic and social development projects.

**Let us not pave the road to the future with instruments of the past.**

While the plummeting official development aid no longer meets Africa's needs, the dynamics of progress should lead our countries to explore other innovative financing mechanisms that currently exist.

Africa is no longer a zone of turmoil and humanitarian emergencies. It has rather become an emerging pole of opportunities and investments for innovative and mutually beneficial partnerships.

The world has changed. Africa too has changed. Let us therefore shift paradigms and change visions.

Let us change our view of the Continent.

Change is also the need to reform the Security Council.

The Council's legitimacy is not only derived from its status of guarantor of the collective security system. It is also and especially derived from the representativeness that justifies its action in the name and on behalf of all member States.

**Mr. President,**

This time last year, Mali was doubly affected by a coup d'état and a terrorist attack of a bygone age, and was a source of great concern to us.

Senegal, which continues to be active within the **MINUSMA**, welcomes the restoration of the territorial integrity and constitutional legality of Mali. We would like to congratulate the people of Mali and its political leaders for this happy outcome.

We strongly support the national reconciliation efforts being deployed by the Government, in the spirit of the Ouagadougou Agreement.

Today, even though the armed groups have been defeated, the terrorist threat to the Sahel is not yet definitively ruled out.

It is only through permanent, coordinated and sufficiently deterrent action that we will be able to address the emerging security challenges on the Continent.

There is urgent need to operationalize the African Rapid Response, decided by the last African Union Summit.

In Guinea Bissau, Senegal is supporting the Government in its transition efforts to successfully carry out the electoral process.

We urge our partner countries and Institutions to pursue their support for the definitive resolution of the Bissau Guinean crisis, through the country's economic recovery, the crucial reform of the defense and security sector and the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

We hope that similar attention will be paid to the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in their legitimate aspiration to peace, stability and the preservation of their territorial integrity.

Throughout Africa, we are attached to the respect of the African Union principles against anti-constitutional changes of Government, regardless of the process used.

With regard to the Middle East, Senegal expresses its deep concern over the untold suffering of the Syrian population. We urge the Syrian Government to exercise restraint and to comply

with the Agreement concluded for the control and destruction of its arsenal of chemical weapons.

In its capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Senegal is heedful of the resumption of the Israel-Palestinian peace negotiations.

It is a courageous and responsible act since it translates the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and internationally recognized borders.

We therefore call for a halt acts likely to affect this perspective, notably the continuing establishment of settlements on Palestinian land.

**Mr. President,**

On 24 September, Senegal joined other countries to launch the international campaign for the fight against sexual violence in conflict.

Sexual violence in times of conflict is an act of unbearable cruelty for victims and their families. It is a war crime, a serious violation of human dignity and universal conscience.

In the name of our common humanity, it is time to act to prevent and arrest such horrors.

It is time to act so that victims will no longer feel lonely and isolated in their suffering, as this destroys the very foundations of society.

It is time to act so that the perpetrators of these crimes and their accomplices are tracked down everywhere, prosecuted and punished in a manner commensurate with the atrocities of their crimes.

I thank you for your kind attention.