



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

STATEMENT BY

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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. Miroslav Lajčák on his election as President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly and to wish him a fruitful work. His experience as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and his deep knowledge of international affairs are valuable resources for the United Nations. The San Marino delegation will ensure you, Mr. President, its utmost collaboration during all works of the General Assembly.

At the beginning of his mandate as Secretary-General of the United Nations, my country would also like to offer heartfelt wishes to H.E. António Guterres and thank him for the energy and determination already shown at the helm of the United Nations in these first months of activity.

Mr. President,

I am grateful for the theme chosen for this Session: "Focusing on people: striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet", where issues so dear to the Republic of San Marino such as human rights, peace and sustainable development are at the centre of the agenda. This is a cross-cutting issue, since human rights are reflected in any action of the United Nations aimed at achieving peace, security, justice and sustainable development. The international community must do its utmost to achieve these objectives in the coming years.

Mr. President,

In every situation of armed conflict, we are witnessing with dismay a systematic violation of human rights. Refugees and migrants are subject to discrimination and to forms of abuse and trafficking.

Racial and religious discrimination and intolerance persist in many parts of the world. Inequality and social exclusion are at the basis of the numerous and increasingly complex challenges that the United Nations is called to face.

In recent years, unfortunately, we have witnessed a growth of inequality and marginalization not only in developing countries but also in the richest ones, where increasingly large sections of the population have to struggle against growing poverty.

This is a threat to global stability, since it leads to an erosion of confidence in national and multilateral institutions and, in parallel, it contributes to fuelling nationalist and populist movements.

Collective commitment to human rights is therefore essential. The relationship between peace, security and respect for human rights is undeniable: the measures for the protection and promotion of human rights are essential to prevent conflicts and to support peace. Moreover, peace and sustainable development are two complementary concepts: more inclusive and peaceful societies set the conditions for sustainable development and vice versa.

Mr. President,

The complexity level of the challenges that the United Nations is called to face today is unparalleled in the history of this Organization. The interconnected nature of the challenges reminds us that countries must act together to be more effective in the fight against climate change, global terrorism, poverty and to build more inclusive, safe and just societies for all.

As stated by the Secretary General in his report on the works of the Organization, it is important to bolster confidence in multilateralism and in particular in the United Nations. Our country has always believed in the power of dialogue and respect for others, values which underpin the peaceful coexistence among peoples.

Its profoundly egalitarian nature, universal participation and unquestioned legitimacy unequivocally reaffirm the value and the central role of the United Nations as a forum for solving global problems.

The many and varied religious and cultural traditions present in our Organization must not be an obstacle, but rather a valuable resource to achieve global solutions through a synthesis and mediation of diversities.

The United Nations must adapt quickly to the new global challenges, but also to the new opportunities offered by an increasingly interconnected world, in order to be more effective in carrying out its mandate.

Therefore, reforms are crucial to future world stability and maintenance of international peace and security, and must remain at the centre of our actions. We reject any downsizing of the role of the United Nations due to the impossibility of finding a common agreement on the reforms needed to improve its functioning.

The Republic of San Marino is following with interest the revitalization process of the UN General Assembly, which must continue to be a reference point, a forum for the exchange of ideas and for conducting discussions, in which solutions based on a strong consensus may be achieved.

Similarly, the Security Council reform should be an objective of all member States. As we have stated on previous occasions, our country believes that intergovernmental negotiations favour the search for an agreement based on a broad and strong political consensus, able to reflect the interests of all negotiating groups. San Marino calls for a reform that makes the Council more democratic, transparent, efficient and accountable. This goal can be achieved only through a continuous dialogue among the States and the awareness that overcoming the respective initial positions is essential to negotiate the broadest agreement possible.

The Republic of San Marino supports the Secretary General's reform agenda, aimed at streamlining procedures, decentralizing decision-making processes and achieving greater transparency and accountability.

Mr. President,

Human rights are the *raison d'être* of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Agenda defines our future and the vision of a peaceful, inclusive and safe society, where the burden of poverty has been eliminated, prosperity is shared and a decent work may be offered to all.

It also reflects, together with the Paris Agreement on climate change, the member States' ambition and commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2020, thus giving to our planet and its inhabitants the possibility of living longer and in better condition.

The Agenda is ambitious because it is universal, integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) and applies to all States.

A year after the adoption of the sustainable development goals, their effective implementation is today's real challenge. In many areas covered by the 2030 Agenda, unfortunately progress is not in line with expectations.

Much more needs to be done for the 700 million people living in extreme poverty and experiencing malnutrition. More targeted actions should be implemented to reduce maternal mortality and gender inequality, to ensure an inclusive and just education, to invest in sustainable energy and to provide healthcare to wider segments of the population.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the responsibility of individual States, which should keep faith to their promises by incorporating sustainable development objectives into their development laws and policies.

A cultural revolution must accompany our policies in the coming years.

In the Republic of San Marino, for instance, we have promoted initiatives concerning education for sustainable development in various sectors, such as education, construction, waste disposal and public transport.

Not only national Governments but also the private sector and civil society play an important role in mobilizing the resources necessary for the implementation of the Agenda. In this regard, San Marino recalls the important result achieved with the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which identifies various concrete measures to finance development and lays the foundations of the global program of the Agenda.

Mr. President,

The 2030 Agenda states that the rights of the most vulnerable people must be promoted and protected. The Republic of San Marino has always paid special attention to the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled.

San Marino, which is among the first signatory countries of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, intends to fully implement the Convention by adopting legislative frameworks and policies that favour the inclusion and full participation of people with disabilities in the country's working, social and cultural context.

Gender equality must be a goal of the international community. Unfortunately, women are still the victims of discrimination and violence in many parts of the world, also in the most developed countries.

In support of the initiatives promoted by the Secretary-General, San Marino signed the Compact to combat and prevent sexual abuse and exploitation in the context of United Nations peacekeeping missions. We believe that the rights and dignity of the victims of sexual abuse should be placed at the heart of our collective efforts.

Children are unfortunately the most vulnerable victims of violence, abuse and exploitation and the protection of their rights must be at the centre of our actions. San Marino supports the Ministerial Declaration of this year's High-Level Political Forum, which reaffirmed the commitment of the international community in favour of children, focusing in particular on

poverty eradication, the promotion of their participation and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination.

Mr. President,

Refugees and migrants continue to be the subject of a violent discrimination. The enormous humanitarian challenge posed by large movements of refugees and migrants can be addressed only through greater cooperation and sharing of responsibilities and costs among all States. This phenomenon has reached an unprecedented dimension in the history of the United Nations.

The Republic of San Marino supports the New York Declaration for refugees and migrants, adopted last September. It contains a series of bold commitments to address the challenges posed by the large flows of migrants and refugees, but it also intends to develop a plan for their implementation.

Similarly to the large movements of refugees and migrants, the United Nations is also called to face deep and complex humanitarian crises. As indicated in the Secretary General's report on the activity of the Organization, in 2017 about 96 million people, more than half of which were women and children, received humanitarian assistance in more than 40 countries. The report shows that in 2016 natural disasters caused the displacement of about 31 million people, three times more than those forced to flee because of armed conflicts. An unprecedented food crisis involves more than 20 million people in the African continent.

The Republic of San Marino has always supported the development cooperation projects and urgent interventions also through numerous international organizations, especially of the UN family.

Our country is grateful to the UN Secretary General for the rapid and fundamental action in favour of the populations facing humanitarian emergencies and to OCHA and CERF for their rapid response and substantial contribution.

Mr. President,

Today, the United Nations has recorded the largest deployment of peacekeeping operations (16) and special political missions (36).

The recent wars and those still ongoing have caused great suffering to civilians, an unprecedented global humanitarian crisis, the tragedy of the great movements of migrants and refugees, as well as an increase of terrorism and violent extremism, of populism and intolerance.

Despite the negotiations for a political solution in Syria, which were resumed last January under the auspices of the United Nations, facilitated by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, to whom the Republic of San Marino gives its full support, the situation remains highly uncertain, thus causing a massive displacement of civilians and at the same time posing a threat to the stability of the entire region.

Mr. President,

The Republic of San Marino supports the Secretary General in his initiative aimed at strengthening prevention activities and conflict mediation. In this regard, my country will participate in the Italian initiative for the creation of a network of women mediators in the Mediterranean area, whose purpose is to contribute to peace processes through prevention and mediation.

The United Nations must be able to address in advance the causes of a possible conflict, by establishing relations with the various national or regional stakeholders and working to achieve sustainable peace.

More and more frequently terrorism and violent extremism are generated and fed by armed conflicts and exacerbate ethnic, religious, political and economic tensions.

Violations of human rights by terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram are very serious and include murder, kidnapping, forced conversion, human trafficking, slavery, sexual abuse, as well as destruction of places that have a religious or a cultural meaning for ethnic and religious minorities.

The self-proclaimed Islamic State and its associated forces are also responsible for numerous deadly terrorist attacks in Europe, Asia and Africa. The international community and the United Nations must act so that those responsible for these heinous crimes are prosecuted. San Marino supports the activities and initiatives of the United Nations in the promotion of justice and the rule of law, which form an integral part of the protection and promotion of human rights.

My country welcomes the action of the Secretary-General, supported by the General Assembly of the United Nations, for the establishment of an *Office of Counter-Terrorism*, headed by a Deputy Secretary-General, in order to enhance coherent action by the United Nations and provide better assistance to member States in their fight against terrorism.

The disarmament activity plays a crucial role for peace and international security. The recent tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the context of a program

to build nuclear weapons threaten security not only regionally but also globally and stress the need for a robust disarmament and non-proliferation policy.

The Republic of San Marino took part in the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons last July. The Treaty is an important step to achieve the common goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

to address the many and complex challenges of today, the United Nations must be more effective and flexible. Member States must assume their responsibilities, including that of making our organization able to fulfil its mandate, which is to protect the citizens of the world.

Thanks to its century-old history of peace and freedom, San Marino is a State with a strong identity. Our State is small, but proud to bring its contribution to the United Nations Community. Everything we do should aim at restoring the capacity and authoritativeness of the United Nations, so that it can continue to be the indispensable reference point of the international community.

Thank you.