



## Intervention of the Portuguese Prime Minister

Nova Iorque, 22 de setembro de 2022

[1.759 palavras ~ 12 minutos]

Mr. President of the General Assembly

Mr. Secretary General

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1945, delegates from 51 countries met in San Francisco to found the United Nations.

They made a commitment to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, and "spare future generations the scourge of war."

77 years later, we still haven't achieved these goals. Around the world, many children - and even many adults - have never known peace.



In Europe today we are confronted with the unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, in flagrant violation of international law, primarily of the United Nations Charter.

A war with devastating effects for the Ukrainian people, brutally affecting the civilian populations.

The gravity of the acts committed makes an independent, impartial and transparent investigation imperative so that the crimes committed do not go unpunished.

We cannot, therefore, fail to condemn once again the Russian aggression and here to reinforce Portugal's support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Russia must cease hostilities and allow for the creation of a serious and sustained ceasefire- and peace-oriented dialogue.

This is not the time for Russia to escalate the conflict or to make irresponsible threats to resort to nuclear weapons.



We welcome the efforts of the entire United Nations system, in particular its Secretary-General, to resolve this conflict and to mitigate its damaging effects, such as the food crisis.

Once again, it has been the most vulnerable who have felt the impact of the energy and food crisis the most, after being buffeted by almost three years of health crisis.

That is why we reiterate our solidarity with all those around the world - and particularly in Africa - who are suffering from the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

And that is also why it is important to make it clear and unequivocal that the necessary sanctions applied to Russia cannot affect, directly or indirectly, the production, transportation and payment of cereals and fertilizers.

Excellencies,



Peace was not definitively won in 1945, but the world has changed radically since then.

We need a representative, agile and functional Security Council that is able to respond to the challenges of the 21st century without becoming paralyzed, and whose actions are scrutinized by the other members of the United Nations.

A Security Council that incorporates a comprehensive view of security, recognizing, inter alia, the role of climate change as an accelerant of conflict.

A Security Council where the African continent, and at least Brazil and India, have seats. And where small countries are more fairly represented.

A global vision of security is essential, with the New Agenda for Peace advocated by the Secretary General. An agenda focused on conflict prevention and capable of ensuring adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding for peacebuilding.



As an international community, it is our duty to support the efforts of the African nations for the stability of their continent, seeking African solutions to African problems.

The worsening security and humanitarian context in the Sahel also requires a concerted and multidimensional effort, ensuring humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the multiple crises that plague the region.

The evolving terrorist threat around the world, but particularly in Mozambique, the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea, requires a targeted and effective response from states.

It is important to address the root causes that contribute to radicalization, such as the collapse of state structures, human rights violations, social exclusion, and inequality.

Over the past decades, my country has established itself as a reliable partner for global peace and stability.



Currently, at the service of the United Nations, we are present in four theaters of peacekeeping operations, namely in MINUSCA.

I am very proud of the recognition our military and security forces have received for their contribution to crisis and conflict management on all continents - under the aegis of the United Nations, NATO or the European Union.

Excellencies,

It is undeniable that there is a link between climate and security.

Today, more than ever, we are feeling the effects of climate change - heat waves or intense cold, droughts, fires, floods and storms.

Countries like Portugal, which suffer from coastal erosion, increased droughts, and the drama of forest fires, clearly understand the urgency of climate action.



Nor is it necessary to explain it to countries like Pakistan, which is today suffering the truly devastating consequences of the rest of the world's climate inaction.

Or to coastal countries, particularly small island nations, which are feeling their livelihoods threatened year after year by rising sea waters.

We hope that COP-27 in Sharm-el-Sheik can be a moment that leads to an inclusive transition, ensuring a more balanced allocation of climate finance between mitigation and adaptation.

Portugal has been at the forefront of the decarbonization process, having been the first to commit to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, as early as COP 22 in Marrakech.

We believe that this goal is feasible from an economic and technological point of view, a promoter of employment and a generator of social justice.



We will seek to accelerate these commitments as we have already done with our goal of ending electricity production through coal, which we achieved last year.

By 2026, we want to increase from 60% to 80% the weight of renewables in the electricity consumed.

To this end, we will continue the strong investment we have been making in solar, wind, and ocean energies, and invest in the use of renewable gases such as green hydrogen.

Excellencies,

The sea is one of the platforms where climate is projected.

We welcome the active participation of all States in the second Oceans Conference, which we had the honor of co-organizing with Kenya.

The Lisbon Declaration constitutes a real action plan for achieving SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources.





As part of the commitments made by the various countries and entities present, Portugal also reiterated its commitment to protect at least 30% of marine areas by 2030.

We went further - by then we want 100% of the maritime space under Portuguese sovereignty or jurisdiction to be assessed as being in good environmental status.

After Lisbon, there is still a lot of work to do on the ocean agenda and I am sure that France and Costa Rica will pursue this mission with redoubled energy.

We therefore call for the conclusion of negotiations on a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that enshrines the 30 by 30 goal.

We also advocate progress in the negotiations of the treaty on Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions by the end of this year.

Excellencies,



The transition to a prosperous future - a green and digital future - "can leave no one behind". Social policies must be at the heart of our action, of the development of our economies, of the fight against climate change.

We therefore support the preparatory process for the Social Summit proposed by the Secretary-General.

We must also continue to work to ensure effective and equitable immunization worldwide, improve the global health architecture, and find ways to respond more quickly, in a coordinated and decisive manner to future crises by adopting a Pandemic Treaty.

The success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals' implementation plays mainly on the most vulnerable countries and populations.

All these challenges highlight even more the universal, indivisible and independent nature of all human rights, whose respect, protection and



promotion are a top priority of Portugal's external and internal action.

Imbued with the humanist spirit that our historical responsibility as forerunners of the abolition of the death penalty imposes on us, we will continue to fight for its universal abolition.

No future will be truly transformative without pluralist, inclusive societies that promote gender equality and combat racial discrimination, racism, xenophobia, and all forms of intolerance.

The fight for gender equality and women's empowerment is, in this respect, absolutely crucial. Without winning it, it is not possible to meet our human rights obligations or the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is also crucial that we pay particular attention to the impact of conflict situations on the rights of women and girls and the fundamental role that



they can play in peace-building and consolidation processes.

I therefore want to reiterate our support for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda of the United Nations.

Excellencies,

As a country of emigration and immigration, we will continue to participate constructively in discussions on the global governance of migration.

And we will continue the good path that we have been following on national territory, from the integration of migrants to the promotion of regular pathways for labor mobility.

We have played an active role in welcoming migrants and refugees, in a clear expression of solidarity, having welcomed refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan, among others.



Excellencies,

The transformative potential of the United Nations is immense - but it must be given the tools to realize the high expectations placed in it by people around the world, particularly young people.

One third of the world's population is under 20. It is therefore essential to ensure that young people participate in decision-making processes and that their voices are effectively heard.

We will therefore continue to take a leading role in the Youth agenda and support the work of the UN Office for Youth.

Excellencies,

The United Nations is the global forum for consultation among peoples.

The challenges we face today make it unavoidable that we must continue to adapt our common home, making it more efficient, fairer, and more representative.



Portugal is ready to make its contribution. We are candidates to the Security Council for the biennium 2027-28. We hope once again to deserve your confidence because only together, all countries, involving civil societies, can we build a more peaceful, more sustainable and more inclusive future.

The strengthening of multilateralism is not an option. It is an absolute necessity in order to face global challenges.

It is time to move from words to action - with more cooperation, more solidarity, and more multilateralism.

Portugal will not miss this call.