



**Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of San Marino**

H.E. Mr. Luca Beccari

**At the General Debate of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly
New York, 24 September 2022**

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. Csaba Kőrösi on his election as President of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly and to wish him a fruitful work.

The Republic of San Marino supports the priorities of your programme and ensures you, Mr. President, full cooperation in all works of the General Assembly.

I would also like to extend my special thanks to Secretary General António Guterres for his energy and determination in leading the United Nations in these difficult and challenging times.

Mr. President,

I am grateful for the theme chosen for this Session: “A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges”.

It gives Member States the opportunity to constructively contribute to the work of the General Assembly.

The increasingly evident interrelationships among global challenges highlight the need for Member States, today more than ever, to work together to overcome difficulties.

It is clear that there is a link between multilateralism and global challenges, the scope of which goes beyond the capacity of each individual State, even the most powerful or technologically advanced, to face them on its own.

Preserving the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the United Nations Charter and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, is of fundamental importance for promoting and supporting peace and security, development and human rights.

The Republic of San Marino considers it essential to continue to reaffirm its collective commitment to multilateralism, in particular in the framework of the General Assembly, as the most representative body of the United Nations on account of its deeply democratic nature, universal participation and undisputed legitimacy.

However, multilateralism cannot be a mere statement of collective intentions, but it must translate into concrete actions to improve people's lives and leave nobody behind.

Mr. President,

We are facing difficult times, with an unprecedented level of violence, mass atrocities and displacement.

The armed conflicts across the globe cause immense suffering to millions of civilians.

The war of aggression against Ukraine brought dramatic consequences for the civilian population, including civilian death, the destruction of vital infrastructures, and massive displacement.

The aggression against Ukraine has been strongly condemned by the international community.

The General Assembly Resolution “Aggression against Ukraine” demands that Russia immediately stop its military aggression, and unconditionally withdraw all forces from the entire territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

San Marino has decided to cooperate within the framework of international structures and mechanisms, at the top of which is the United Nations Organization, because it believes in the strength of dialogue, democracy and respect for others.

In line with our values, the Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, in Their message at the opening of the session of the Parliament last July, called on all parties involved in the Ukraine conflict to renounce the use of force and to reopen the channels of dialogue and negotiation so that politics and diplomacy may prevail in the management of this crisis.

No one should remain indifferent to war, but rather we should all work responsibly to create the conditions for dialogue and peace with the full involvement of international institutions.

Mr. President,

San Marino is deeply concerned by the still ongoing armed conflicts across the globe.

We reaffirm our commitment to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect which is essential in the prevention of atrocity crimes.

Accountability is indeed another factor that plays an important role in preventing and stopping such crimes.

The Republic of San Marino reaffirms its full commitment to the obligations under human and humanitarian law, such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Rome Statute and the Geneva Conventions.

San Marino reaffirms its full support to the International Criminal Court, whose work is crucial in the fight against impunity for genocide and crimes against

humanity and it represents one of the core elements for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect.

The ICC, through its work, fosters accountability and thus promotes prevention and reconciliation.

The Republic of San Marino would also like to reiterate its support for initiatives such as the ACT Group's Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity and the French and Mexican declaration on voluntary restraint use of the veto by the Permanent Members of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

Children and youth are uniquely – and often disproportionately – affected by conflicts and atrocities.

San Marino stresses the need of strengthening the child protection capacities and to put children and youth at the center of efforts to prevent atrocities.

At the same time, we also encourage member States to adopt the relevant instruments on the protection of children, including the Paris Principles and the Safe Schools Declaration.

Being part of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), San Marino is particularly worried for the difficulties in the implementation of child protection activities in armed conflict situations.

San Marino commends the dedication of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and of her Office and appreciates the engagement of all the child protection personnel and partners involved.

Moreover, San Marino is committed to the protection of women and girls, and to supporting the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.

In addition, persons with disabilities face additional risks and vulnerabilities in situations of armed conflict. Their needs should be duly taken into account and barriers to access information, evacuation, and emergency assistance should be lifted.

San Marino is deeply disturbed and firmly condemns the growing number of deliberate attacks against schools, hospitals and places of worship.

We also firmly condemn attacks against journalists, humanitarian workers, human rights defenders and peacekeepers.

These stakeholders and civil society actors can play an important role for reconciliation and for the prevention and early warning mechanisms and should therefore be supported and protected.

Mr. President,

Today the threat of nuclear weapons being used is much higher than it has been in the last decades. We condemn the Russian Federation's dangerous nuclear rhetoric: any threat of use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable and of the utmost concern.

What is needed today is a steady and genuine commitment to international institutions and to disarmament.

With this spirit, San Marino has participated in the 10th Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and in the First Meeting of State parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons earlier this year.

We regret that, at this critical time, the 10th Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty was not able to adopt its final document. San Marino will continue to work for the full implementation of this fundamental instrument.

San Marino welcomes the positive outcome of the First Meeting of State parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urges all States committed to our final goal of a world without such weapons to join the TPNW.

Only honoring and reinvigorating our multilateral agreements will we be able to put humanity on a new path towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

Since 1945, the world is witnessing the highest number of violent conflicts. Forced displacement has continued to grow in 2021 and 2022 while refugees were at the highest number. The war in Ukraine created one of the largest refugee crises of modern time.

More than seven million refugees have fled Ukraine (most of whom are women and children), and a further seven million have been displaced inside the country.

This refugee crisis confronts each member State with its responsibilities.

The people of San Marino, guardian of the century-old tradition of peace and solidarity, opened the doors to the Ukraine refugees.

Since the beginning of the war, the Republic of San Marino has welcomed more than 300 Ukrainian refugees, equal to 1% of the entire Sammarinese population, thanks to the solidarity of public and private institutions, NGOs and with the help of many volunteers.

Together with the refugee crisis, the impacts of the conflicts may lead to a global food crisis.

Food insecurity affects the lives of millions of people across the world and is mainly concentrated in conflict-affected regions. The vast majority of stunted children live in Countries affected by violence and conflicts.

Armed conflicts displace farmers and can destroy agricultural assets and food stocks. Furthermore, they disrupt markets and vital services for the food systems.

The ongoing war in Ukraine is disrupting supply chains and further affecting prices of grain, fertilizer and energy. In the first half of 2022, this caused further food price increases.

As reported by The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022, the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet around the world rose by 112 million to almost 3.1 billion, reflecting the impacts of rising consumer food prices during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further expanded the fragilities in our agri-food systems and the inequalities in our societies, and increased world hunger and severe food insecurity.

At the same time, we also should not underestimate the effects of climate change and climate disasters in aggravating food insecurity.

For all these reasons, it is extremely important to keep food security on our agenda and to continue to incentivize sustainable production, supply and consumption of nutritious foods in order to make healthy diets less costly and more affordable for all.

Moreover, as promoter of the resolution which established the 29 of September as International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, San Marino firmly believes that the fight against food loss and waste will contribute to promote

food security and welcomes all the initiatives aiming at developing awareness in such responsible behaviors.

Mr. President,

It is widely acknowledged that the COVID-19 crisis had a negative impact on global efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the end of 2021, the deaths caused by COVID-19 were nearly 15 million. With the overwhelming of the global health systems and the disruption of many essential health services, the pandemic undermined years of progress fighting other diseases, in particular in developing countries.

Compared with the pre-pandemic level, an additional 75 million to 95 million people will live in extreme poverty in 2022.

Billions of children significantly missed out on schooling and over 100 million more children fell below the minimum reading proficiency level.

Despite some encouraging signs, the global economy recovery struggles to grow due to COVID-19 variants and continued vaccine inequity, together with rising inflation, major supply-chain disruptions, policy uncertainties, and unsustainable debt in developing countries.

The impact of climate change continues to be felt across the world. COVID-19 further delayed the urgently needed transition to greener economies. Demand for coal, oil and gas rebounded with the economy in 2021 and will bring over the current decade an increase of global emissions by almost 14%.

If current trends continue, the Earth could lose the natural wealth of its ecosystems, which would in turn jeopardize global food security, water supplies, and livelihoods.

Mr. President,

The interconnection of the global crisis – COVID-19 pandemic, the climate change, the armed conflicts across the globe put at great risk the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

As the Secretary General called for in Our Common Agenda, a renewed commitment to international cooperation is needed, but the United Nations

must adapt quickly to the new global challenges, in order to be more effective in carrying out its mandate.

Reforms must remain at the centre of our actions because they are crucial to future world stability and maintenance of international peace and security.

We believe that the Security Council reform should be an objective of all member States. This reform 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.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

A stronger multilateralism is essential if we want to build fair, just and peaceful societies, where young people can live in dignity, women can have the same opportunities as men, and where all minorities and vulnerable groups are protected.

I believe that the General Debate is an important opportunity to renew our commitment to a stronger United Nations Organization, capable of coordinating economic, social and environmental policies and translating them into effective action at all levels.

The Republic of San Marino, in accordance with its history and its tradition of freedom and democracy, firmly believes in this mandate and will support any action that helps strengthen the United Nations in this process.

Thank you for your attention.