



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

ADDRESS BY

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
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,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Mr. President, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of San Marino, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I assure you, Mr. President, that the Republic of San Marino is ready to offer all its support toward the success of this session.

I would like to express our recognition of the extraordinary work carried out during the 62nd Session of the General Assembly by the outgoing President, His Excellency Dr. Srgjan Kerim, for the commitment and determination he demonstrated while presiding this General Assembly and promoting the United Nations reforms agenda.

I would also like to give particular thanks to the Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the great energy and dedication he has displayed in leading this organization and, in particular, for his admirable commitment to the United Nations reforms agenda, his continuing vigilance and determination in the face of emergencies and events of international political importance.

Further, I would like to express San Marino's appreciation for the consideration the Secretary General has shown to all UN Member States, including the small States, without distinction, and for the attention he has paid to particularly delicate and urgent issues, like climate change and the global food crisis.

Mr. President,

The United Nations reform process is of fundamental importance to world equilibrium and must remain the focus of our efforts. We shall not allow not to reach a fair agreement on U.N. reforms. This failure can lead to the decentralization and weakening of the United Nations' pivotal role.

The United Nations' role is of even greater necessity given present international conditions, marked by wars between and inside nations. In fact, as the 21st century begins, we are witnessing a series of new conflicts ever more driven by economic interests – clashes of civilizations, both ethnic and religious, that often occur within the same country.

More than sixty years ago, with the Charter of the United Nations, the signatory States undertook the shared responsibility of maintaining international peace and security; they worked together to prevent and remove threats to international security, to suppress acts of aggression and to resolve, with peaceful means, controversies between and within States that could lead to war.

On the 60th Anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Peacekeeping, it is important to remember the men and women who have believed in these ideals, who have dedicated themselves and worked tirelessly in the service of bringing peace and stability to the world, and in dangerous war-torn zones, with resolve, dedication and professionalism, while always remaining impartial and neutral.

However, despite all their work we are still far from reaching these goals, and the United Nations has failed to play a decisive role in many international crises. In this context, United Nations reform becomes even more indispensable in order to give the Organization the necessary power to fulfill these ideals and objectives as originally chartered.

The Republic of San Marino has always supported the United Nations reform process and, further, believes the process of revitalization of the General Assembly to be fundamental. These reforms are necessary to the reaffirmation of the General Assembly as the United Nations' most representative body.

Mr. President,

The Republic of San Marino believes that the strengthening of the General Assembly assumes even greater significance for, as a profoundly democratic body of the United Nations, it currently represents the most important forum in which a small State can be heard and bring its own contribution at international level. Greater efficiency would render the General Assembly more complementary in its relations with the other main bodies of the United Nations, thus avoiding the duplication of activities and establishing mechanisms that would effectively enact the provisions of adopted resolutions.

The process of democratization within the bodies of the United Nations assumes fundamental importance for a small State like the Republic of San Marino; strengthened representation and democratization of this organization's main bodies can guarantee those States of limited territory and population the possibility of participating and having a larger role in the decision making process within multilateral bodies.

I am convinced that States of limited dimensions, like the Republic of San Marino, can bring a fundamental contribution to this Organization precisely because of their lack of macro-economic, military or geopolitical interests.

Similarly, it is important for the small States to establish efficient methods of collaboration and consultation in order to coordinate their own actions and to have their own voices sufficiently heard within international organizations.

In the framework of the relations with other small European States, also during the participation to this session of the General Assembly, San Marino has promoted a meeting with other small European States, with whom it is already conducting a profitable cooperation on specific humanitarian projects, to consider other opportunities of multilateral cooperation.

Mr. President,

Having participated for the past few years with a group of small States in the financing of a UNICEF project for children affected by HIV in Gabon, this year the Republic of San Marino, in concert with the private sector, is taking part in other UNICEF projects, in particular to protect the rights of disabled children.

The Executive Director of UNICEF, Mrs. Ann Veneman, will in fact be the Official Speaker at the Ceremony for the Investiture of the new Captains Regent, the Republic of San Marino's Highest Authority, this coming October 1st, in honor of UNICEF's over sixty years of dedication and commendable work to protect children, whose presence at such a significant moment in the life of our State will highlight the need to intensify the States' and our collective efforts to improve the welfare of children throughout the world.

Intense involvement in the issue of protecting children's rights has characterized the relations between San Marino and UNICEF. This commitment was further expressed through the participation of Their Excellencies the Captains Regent at the United Nations' Commemorative Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the outcome of the Special Session on Children, held last December, an event that lent further impetus to the States' activities and underscored the need for their cooperation.

Mr. President,

Population growth, climate change and the spread of new diseases, as well as economic and financial instability and armed conflicts, are seriously threatening the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Climate change has become a priority in the United Nations agenda over the last two years because of its impact on our habits and the future needs of all countries, without distinction. The most vulnerable regions, because of their geographic position, as well as developing countries, in particular small islands, are facing an even graver emergency.

The negative consequences of climate change represent a great obstacle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and are a threat to international peace and the cause of the most severe of humanitarian emergencies. The only solution is to identify effective strategies at every level in order to reach an equilibrium between respect for the environment, energy consumption and economic growth – which must proceed in equal measure with the development of policies that observe the principles of sustainable development. Expanding the use of renewable energy resources is the key element to an effective global strategy to address the consequences wrought by climate change. Partnerships between governments and the private sector can make a significant contribution in reaching this goal and can ensure targeted investments in new technologies.

The global food crisis and rising prices also present an increasingly distressing trend. The United Nations and other specialized agencies play a central role in confronting this emergency, and, in particular, the Republic of San Marino would like to express its full support to the UN Task

Force on the global food security crisis, which was established by the Secretary General last April as a measure to coordinate all activities to stem the crisis.

Mr. President,

In recent months the Republic of San Marino has had the great honor of having its own Historic Centre and Mount Titano recognized as World Heritage by UNESCO. Such recognition represents a further impulse to international cooperation to ensure respect, conservation and appreciation of environmental and cultural heritage, a precious inheritance for all people, which we must hand down intact to future generations.

Mr. President,

On the occasion of the opening of the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Secretary General announced the launch of the UN campaign to end violence against women. San Marino intends to work in support of this campaign to protect the rights of women which parallels a commitment undertaken during its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

I would like to add that the campaign to combat violence against women was also carried out at the national level, in which we tried to raise public awareness of an issue too often ignored or underestimated. Following this initiative, the Parliament of San Marino has recently adopted a law – *Prevention and Repression of Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence*. It is a decisive and innovative legal instrument for our Country that provides for, inter alia, the introduction of preventive measures addressing violence against women and gender-based violence, as well as the protection of victims during criminal proceedings.

The Republic of San Marino also pays particular attention to the problems faced by persons with disabilities and to the protection of their rights: San Marino has already ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. The Republic of San Marino is pleased to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. San Marino will be collaborating with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the ACT project – Assisting Communities Together – by financing activities in various Countries to promote the education of human rights in primary and secondary schools.

Mr. President,

The Republic of San Marino has always been committed to the promotion of the principles of peaceful coexistence and the mutual respect between individuals and peoples, in the knowledge that understanding and mutual respect are prerequisites to peace and justice. The promotion of intercultural dialogue is a concrete tool for reaching these values and for affirming one of the United Nations' guiding principles: peace founded on justice and international cooperation.

The Republic of San Marino has dedicated itself to and continues to work for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and, in particular, its the religious dimension. At the regional level, in the framework of its activities within the Council of Europe, San Marino coordinated the first Meeting of the Council of Europe on the Religious Dimension of Intercultural Dialogue, which was held this year on an experimental basis. Participating Countries included the Member States of the Council of Europe, religious leaders, experts and representatives of civil society. The development of a dialogue with and among religions, at all levels of society, is a fundamental condition for the prevention of tensions that could endanger peaceful coexistence among people, as this was further stressed at the high-level meeting promoted by the United Nations.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, allow me to wish you the greatest success in the important task which you have undertaken, ensuring to you our full support during the 63rd session of the General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President.