



República da Guiné-Bissau

**Address by
His Excellency Mr. Joao Bernardo Vieira
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
before
The 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

New York, September 27, 2007

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to the Presidency of the Sixty-second Regular Session (62nd) of the General Assembly. Your great attributes will contribute greatly to the success of our work.

I would like to assure you, Mr. President, of the constant support of the Guinea-Bissau delegation toward the realization of your noble mission.

I would also like to extend my warm congratulations to your distinguished predecessor, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain, for the talent and competence she displayed during her tenure.

I take this opportunity also to address my congratulations to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the excellent work he has performed since his election.

We fully agree with the contents of his report, and with the analysis he has made on the international situation, and we subscribe to the measures he has recommended.

Mr. President,

The prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the preservation of international peace and security occupy a central position in the Charter of the United Nations.

It is therefore the duty of all Member States to make efforts in order to attain these noble objectives.

The creation of an international coalition for peace, international security, the promotion and defense of human rights, represents - in our view - the ideal way to advance efforts towards a resolution of conflicts.

Mr. President,

Terrorism and drugs trafficking are scourges that threaten all of us and that can even gravely affect the stability of a country.

Guinea-Bissau, as many other countries in West Africa, is confronting the phenomenon of drug trafficking.

The weakened infrastructure of the State, and the problems we face when controlling our borders, in particular our waters, have enabled illegal activities by drug traffickers and other organized-crime elements to develop in our country, and have resulted in difficulties for our authorities, to the point of damaging Guinea-Bissau's image, and putting at risk our relations with the international community.

Despite the political will and the firmness of action on the part of the Government in fighting against drug trafficking, we were not able to put an end to this scourge. Its eradication will only be possible based on international cooperation.

The Emergency Plan to Combat Drug Trafficking developed by my Government proves the earnestness of my country in deciding to make the fight against the trafficking of drugs and organized crime a national objective. Unfortunately, however, we do not dispose of qualified human resources nor of the material and financial means indispensable to carry it out.

I am pleased that an International Conference on Drug Trafficking in West Africa which will take place soon, and to thank the Portuguese Government for its willingness to host it in Lisbon.

We foresee as well a regional conference in Dakar, Senegal, which objective will be to allow for better coordination between the countries of the sub-region.

I would like to launch a vibrant appeal to all countries able to share their experience and technology on the matter of drug trafficking and organized crime, to assist us in the fight against these criminal activities, which put in danger the internal security and stability of our countries and constitute a great danger for our young people.

In this regard, I salute the efforts of the United Nations system in foreseeing the creation of a true international network for the eradication of this scourge.

Mr. President,

The Government of Guinea-Bissau has decided to launch a Financial Sanitation Programme as a profitable instrument of adjustment with international financial institutions. This step will certainly permit us to re-establish and strengthen the framework for inter-action and external partnerships of cooperation for development.

The approval of a **Post-Conflict Programme** by the Administrative Council of the International Monetary Fund will represent an important step toward the economic recovery and stabilization of the country.

We are aware of our responsibilities to manage transparently the meager resources of which we dispose, and to fight against corruption, thanks to good governance based on true democracy.

The disbursement of pledges made during the Donor's Conference for Guinea-Bissau in Geneva last November by our development partners is much needed for the political and institutional stabilization of our country.

It goes without saying that without the firm support of the international community, it will be difficult for us to gather the indispensable

conditions for the consolidation of stability and for the promotion of a true political national reconciliation, necessary for the preservation of peace and sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. President,

Allow me to pay tribute to sub-regional organizations such as ECOWAS and UEMOA for their constant support and solidarity from which we have benefited in order to better confront the enormous political, economic and financial difficulties we are facing.

I would also like to salute the important contribution that the International Contact Group for Guinea-Bissau has carried out to improve the dialogue between the international development partners and to mobilize external assistance for my country in a particularly difficult moment of our recent history.

It is also important to emphasize the role played by ECOSOC's Ad-hoc Consultative Group on Guinea-Bissau.

I wish to express our thanks for the contribution of the United Nations system in general and in particular by UNOGBIS, in the process of peace and political stability in our country.

Mr. President,

The relation between the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries and the United Nations has been developing in a steady and satisfactory way.

We wish to stress the advances already made in the consolidation of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights in the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries, which constitute a marked change in the life of the peoples of its Member States.

As a matter of fact, our eight countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São-Tome and Príncipe and

Timor-Leste, are engaged in pooling together their affinities and their cultural identities in order to create an interchangeable arena, in a spirit of constant and active solidarity.

My country Guinea-Bissau has benefited from the support of these sister-countries in order to face the many difficulties mentioned before.

On behalf of the people of Guinea-Bissau, I would like to warmly salute their leaders present here, and to thank them, reiterating once again our will to reinforce the historical ties of friendship and cooperation between our peoples.

Mr. President,

Allow me in concluding to reaffirm our determination to contribute to the reinforcement of the role of the United Nations for the benefit of peace, international stability and development.

We support the peaceful resolution of conflict and the promotion of dialogue in all circumstances and situations.

History teaches us that change, because it is inescapable, cannot be hindered indefinitely. China is one sole nation, one sole people.

The People's Republic of China - which contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as its partnership, especially with regard to cooperation for development, is exemplary - is the sole, legitimate and true representative of the Chinese People.

Mr. President,

We are aware of the problems and the difficulties which we confront in the world in general, and in Africa, in particular, where conflict situations and humanitarian crises persist, for example in Darfur and in Somalia.

We hope that a new spirit of cooperation will prevail within the international community so to allow a lasting solution and peace in the Middle East.

We need, therefore, an efficient Organization which represents the geographical, cultural, and religious diversity of the world, an Organization that takes into consideration and defends with equal commitment and determination the legitimate aspirations of a large number of countries, for a just representation and participation in its deliberations and decision-making, namely in the Security Council.

Thank you.