



# **REPÚBLICA DA GUINÉ-BISSAU**

**Statement by His Excellency**

**Mr. João Bernardo Vieira**

**President of the Republic**

63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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**Unofficial translation**

**Mr. President,**

It is with great pleasure that I address to you my warmest congratulations for your election as President of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In electing you in this complex International context the International Community places confidence in your qualities Statement as Spiritual Leader and as well as your actions in favor of the most vulnerable.

From my side I am convinced that the experience you have gained in historical moment and particular circumstances in the life of the friendly people of Nicaragua will serve you well in analyzing and better understanding the challenges we are confronted with in this first decade of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Century.

I count on your wisdom and your sense of balance with the conviction that the Spiritual force which always inspired you will help preside over our deliberations with success.

You can count on my personal support and the cooperation of delegation of my country, Guinea-Bissau.

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to thank your predecessor for the many results achieved during the last session.

I would like also to express our appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for his dedication and the spirit of innovation he has shown in the fulfillment of his duties. His report about the international situation emphasizes the gravity of the big challenges the world is confronted with as well as the complexity of much needed reforms to improve the functioning and efficiency of the organization as well as the working conditions of the staff.

We agree with him that in order to solve most efficiently the numerous problems of our planet we need an organization which is less bureaucratic, capable of adapting new technologies with sufficient financial means and competent and highly motivated human resources.

We support the efforts of the Secretary General with the view to increasing the capacity of our organization in the maintenance of peace, in addressing global issues and as well as his proposal to introduce in the Secretariat in particular new working methods based not only in the recognition of individuals competence but also putting emphases on team work.

**Mr. President,**

The present international context demands a serious reflection about the causes of the present crisis which affects enormously our countries.

The conjunction of tree main crisis, Energy, Food and International Finances to which we have to add the disastrous consequences of climate change calls for a better coordination of our efforts in the pursuit of innovative, courageous and adequate solutions leading to the instaurations

of a new world order just and equitable and capable of responding to the realities of an interdependent and globalized world.

The increased of oil price has destabilizing effects on our economies. The cost of production of electric energy in particular has become unsustainable burden for the poor countries and a major obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In my country Guinea-Bissau for example the lack of energy compromises seriously all socio-economic activities, hospitals in particular and the distributions potable water which is indispensable to guaranty hygiene and public health.

How can a poor country like ours face the unjustified increase of the price of oil?

What means do we have at our disposal to face the perverse consequences of a system which is poorly based in speculation and which has nothing to do with the law of offer and demand?

Is not it the right time for us to thing about creating a world fund to mitigate this effects which are jeopardizing our capacity to realize the Millennium Development Goals?

How can we invest and improve our infrastructure in such vital areas like Health, Education and Agriculture if we are compelled to continuous to spend large part of our already limited resources to buy fuel?

On the other hand, the tremendous increase of food price on the international market , hunger and mal-nutrition which could affect many countries, in the African continent in particular are also matter of serious concern and call for our mobilization in the implementation of the Agriculture polices, with sufficient financial means in order to invest in the creation of modern and rentable conditions production.

Stating that Agriculture is a priority should not be considered merely as a slogan.

We need to be reminded that the right to food is a fundamental right and enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which 60<sup>th</sup> year of proclamation we celebrate this year.

Any country should have the possibility to guaranty its food autonomy. We need therefore to examine and reformulate the conditions of obtaining credits for Agriculture in particular.

**Mr. President,**

Food shortage can pose serious threat to the peace and security in a country.

We need at the international level to seriously discuss how to improve our capacity to respond efficiently to food crisis by putting in to practice new scientific knowledge and by implying technologies which are more suitable to the climatic conditions of the different regions of our planet as well as the social economical realities of our respective peoples.

**Mr. President,**

In an interdependent and globalized world we have to strive for the establishment and the respect of rules capable of regulating the international financial and trade system, without impeding the free circulation of capital.

But the international financial system which is already affect by serious distortions cannot be based only on the search of speculative profits and unlawful behavior which can bear enormous consequences as it is the case in many countries where thousands of families are falling victims of various dysfunctions in particular in housing credits.

Unfortunately, the consequences of such bad practices are not just limited to few countries.

**Mr. President,**

The international Community must react to all these challenges.

But, how can we succeed without closed cooperation among all the countries of the world?

Cooperation in order to face climate changes and mitigate the effects of natural disasters, such as the terrible hurricanes, which caused much destruction in countries in the Caribbean like Cuba and Haiti and also in Houston, Texas.

Our main goals should be to foster dialog in all occasions and circumstances.

Dialog among countries, Peoples, Cultures, Religions and Civilizations of the world.

It is only through dialog that we will be able to identify our differences and find solutions of common interest.

Dialog and negotiations at the international level to prevent and solve conflicts like in the Middle East and to Preserve the Lives of Human Being in danger, in Darfur and in Somalia for example.

Dialog and negotiations to defend and Protect the most vulnerable, in particular Women and Children through the promotion and respect of Human Rights and the Principle of Democracy and the Rule of Law.

Dialog at the National level aimed at creating the right conditions for the consolidation of democracy through free, transparent and credible elections as we pretend to do in my country Guinea-Bissau on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, Dialog and negotiations with the view of promoting policy of inclusion which guaranties the active of all stakeholders, above all women,

youth and the Civil Society in general in building peace and political stability and in creating the necessary conditions for the development.

**Mr. President,**

Although it is confronted with complex international situation the international community has ways of facing these challenges.

However, a real political will is needed from all of us.

The United Nations can play even a more decisive roll in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in protecting our planets and in creating better living conditions for millions of people.

We need an United Nations better organized, less bureaucratic and better fitted to confront the many challenges.

We reiterate our total support to the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, in the implementation of much needed reforms for greater efficiency, capacity to respond and credibility of the United Nations.

We equally support the reform process undertaken by the Member States of our organization for in order to democratize the United Nations System, in particular the Security Council which enlargement remains a priority for all of us considering the new economical and political reality of today's world and above all the need to address historical injustice done to the Continent of Africa for more than Sixty year.

**Thank you for your attention.**