

PERMANENT MISSION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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FRADIQUE DE MENEZES

PRESIDENT OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

OF

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

AT THE

**SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2005
NEW YORK**

Honorable Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on this sublime occasion of the election of Your Excellency as the President of the Sixtieth (60th) Session of the General Assembly, and as a result wish you the greatest success in conducting the work for this event.

Then, I am also pleased to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, distinguished representative of the Gabonese Republic, for the large amount of work produced during his term as president, especially toward the end of this term when we reviewed several matters related to the implementation of the Millennium Objectives and the reform of the United Nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for the valuable efforts undertaken to reinforce and propel the role of the United Nations in international peacekeeping, security, and development. The report by His Excellency Kofi Annan, as well as the recommendations attached to it provides us with important elements capable of leading to gaining consensus, leading us to adopt strategies that will help us achieve the Millennium objectives and make progress on reforming the United Nations.

I cannot fail to take advantage of this sublime opportunity to reiterate, in the name of the people of San Tome and Principe, to the government and people of the United States of America and the families in mourning, our most sincere condolences regarding the tragedy caused by Hurricane Katrina.

These difficult times that a large part of the American people are going through cannot leave us indifferent, above all because we are fully aware

of the role that the American people and government play in international solidarity and cooperation, incessantly seeking peace and prosperity for peoples in difficulty, and their support and financing of this great organization.

Excellencies,

Ladies and

Gentleman

From the early days of the signing of the Charter in 1945, in San Francisco, the United Nations has played a crucial role in undertaking many matters of a political, economic, social and humanitarian nature throughout the world. Nevertheless, it seems to us that the world now needs a stronger and more dynamic UN.

The present session takes place in a very complex international environment. Truthfully, the climate of permanent tension experienced in some parts of the world, the unbridled arms race, human trafficking, cross-border organized crime, terrorism, systematic violations of human

rights, economic depression and environmental degradation, constitute important matters that are in need of the attention of the UN in these times and in the years to come.

In the face of such challenges, it is up to the member states to manifest a sense of wisdom and responsibility for an international order based on peace, security, and cooperation to prevail.

The small island states met this year in the Mauritius Islands to evaluate the Barbados Program of Action. In Mauritius the member states reaffirmed their engagement in supporting the efforts of developing small island states that would lead to sustainable development, through a greater and more effective implementation of the Barbados Program of Actions.

Decisions and recommendations were adopted on climate change, natural and environmental disasters, water resources, waste

management, tourism, energy, transportation, biodiversity, marine and coastal resources.

All the problems that affect the small island states, from global warming to the ecosystems, can only be resolved if the international community makes an effort to effectively increase the resources that will support the sustained development of the small island states.

In this regard, we would like to take the opportunity to express our thanks both to the international community and the government of Mauritius for the efforts made to organize the special conference.

Mr. President,

The bases of international security are founded on the protection of the people and the education of capacity building promotion of community's development. Nations that do not pay attention to this set of conditions could be in permanent tensions which are not convenient. For this reason, HIV/AIDS, poverty, political crises, ongoing violations of

human rights, oppression and occupation, constitute threats to human security.

A large number of our countries continue to face great challenges combating HIV/AIDS and other illnesses. In some regions of Africa, HIV/AIDS is devastating families, cultures, and economies — entire societies. The cost of treatment continues to be extremely high, and our economies are beginning to buckle under the effects of the illness. If significant resources and additional scientific investments for research to seek a cure for HIV/AIDS are not forthcoming, the development expectation of Africa will be far from reached.

Very recently the Republic of Angola was attacked by the worst outbreak of a strain of Ebola, called Marburg.

We are concerned, because S an Tome e Principe, being an integral part of the central African states, cannot remove itself from that situation.

We appeal to the World Health Organization to reinforce the capabilities of the countries of this subregion by holding seminars and training. This

initiative will help us to fight prophylactically identical situations that might arise.

Likewise, malaria continues to be a serious public health problem for my country despite its active involvement with the programs underway, supported by several countries and organizations, which have already yielded very encouraging results. Considering the headway made in applying new methods to fight the disease, we hope that this disease is brought under control in the near future.

Mr. President,

My country is facing with great concern the problem of the insecurity existing in some regions of the world, whose marked deterioration has brought us to the point of reaching levels of extreme violence.

Environmental degradation, kidnappings, the deaths of innocents, illegal trafficking in weapons and narcotics, and the use of landmines constitute sources of insecurity that we have to take strong initiative and active policies.

This situation of insecurity foremost affects the most vulnerable populations, specifically refugees, children, women and the elderly.

For its part terrorism is destabilizing governments, destroying lives and claiming innocent victims. We are faced with a challenge that requires reformulating the strategies of combat. It seems entirely recommendable to start with an understanding of the origins of the problem by identifying the causes and redefining new consensuses, improving the methods of combating it. The implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001). However, additional actions on the part of the United Nations must be unleashed to benefit states which, like my own, are not in a position to fully comply with all the objectives of the resolution.

We need resources that contribute to the improvement of our security, border control and territorial waters, among others, and in this regard reinforcing our capabilities to fight the phenomenon of terrorism becomes a priority.

In quality as President of Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, (CPLP) I would like to make a reference to Guinea-Bissau, that just successful concluded a long and difficult political transition.

First of all let felicitate the people and Guinea's authority for a success and second the International Community, particularly the United Nations. It's Secretary -General for pronto contribution that prevalence the natural behavior of the people for peace, stability and development.

Now, Guinea —Bissau has a giant task to promote development and well been for its populations.

Taking that in account the International Community has to continuous giving the traditional help avoiding seen the legitme expectative been frustrated.

Mr. President,

The universality of our organization requires that all nations must be represented in it. However, this continues not to be so, despite several

calls to do so. As we reflect on reforming the United Nations, we must once again take advantage of the opportunity, from this pulpit, to invite the international community to review the problem of the need for the Republic of China (Taiwan) to be represented in our organization. In this regard my country signed Draft Resolution A/60/192, which requests the introduction of the question regarding 23 million Taiwanese in the United Nations, into the agenda of the present session. Once again we lost an opportunity to correct this injustice.

We are further concerned by the recent adoption by the People's Republic of China of the so-called Anti-Secession Law, which by increasing tension in the Strait of Taiwan may compromise peace in the region. Aware of the role of the UN, specifically under the provisions of Articles 1 and 34 of the Charter, Sao Tome e Principe cosigned Draft Resolution A/60/193, which requests the inclusion of a supplementary point on the agenda of the present session related to the required proactive role of the United Nations in keeping the peace in the straight of Taiwan. Both proposals did not meet the support expected.

We are faced with an excellent opportunity to infuse our dear organization with a greater dynamism, rationality, more action and less bureaucracy.

Reform of the system is urgent! It is a priority!

We must all work in this regard, without hesitation, for the good of the world that we belong to.

Thank you very much.