

ADDRESS BY

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OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

AT THE 59TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, September 28th, 2004

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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of San Marino I wish to congratulate Mr. Jean Ping, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and “la Francophonie” of Gabon, on his election as President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly. I also wish to thank the outgoing President, Mr. Julian Hunte, for his unreserved commitment and determination.

So far the activity of the United Nations has been crucial to reduce conflicts between States. However, although the number of international conflicts has decreased, mankind is still facing new threats, which can be tackled only multilaterally.

To continue to serve the international community, the UN should be given more effective tools to enhance mediation and peaceful settlement of disputes, preventive control, verification, planning and sanctioning, in order to prevent the outburst of warfare and promote disarmament and arms control. Moreover, the UN should be adequately supported to be more able to meet the growing number of requests for peace-keeping operations in the various regions of the world. In this context, we appreciate the results obtained so far.

This process requires a stronger will on behalf of our governments to comply with international rules and implement a concrete and effective cooperation regime.

In line with relevant international standards, San Marino has recently passed a special Law to combat terrorism and associated crimes. It also actively cooperates with the two UN Committees on anti-terrorism, established by Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1373.

Since 9/11 tragic attacks on the US, the international community has become aware of the seriousness of the threat of terrorism. Recurrent dramatic events world-wide, the violent attacks perpetrated in Iraq, not only against soldiers but also civilians, media operators and, most recently, even volunteers of NGO humanitarian missions, urge our Countries not to underestimate this phenomenon and its proliferation, and to search for a common and effective response based on a stronger joint commitment.

The horrifying terrorist act in Ossetia against hundreds of innocents and so many children, is the proof that this planned widespread strategy of fear, hatred and devastation is humanly and ethically unacceptable!

San Marino once again condemns any form of terrorism, the most serious and impending threat to peace which can be neither explainable nor justified, and supports the search for constructive solutions promoting dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples of different cultures and religions, so as to disseminate a more and more shared culture of peace and cooperation and reject violence and oppression.

The San Marino Government avails itself of this occasion to express its special thanks to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, who contributed to the establishment of an Iraqi interim government, and renews its support to Prime Minister Allawi for the forthcoming democratic elections in January 2005. They will surely be a milestone for the Iraqi people in the exercise of their sovereignty.

We trust that the international community will help achieve national reconciliation in Iraq, on the basis of the last important Security Council Resolution of June 8th, with regard to independence, security and legality. Despite the tragic attack on its headquarters in Baghdad last year, the UN can continue to play a key role in Iraq, especially at a time when the situation has become extremely complex and delicate, particularly from a political point of view.

Another major source of concern and disappointment for San Marino is the persistence of the Middle East crisis, which has remained unsolved despite the efforts made by the UN to encourage dialogue and mediation.

To achieve the ultimate goal of legitimate, peaceful and safe coexistence of two States, Israel and Palestine, the political process outlined in the Roadmap and supported by the international community still appears to be the only viable solution. Therefore, on behalf of the San Marino Government, I reiterate, as I recently expressed to both the Foreign Ministers of Israel and Palestine, our sincere hope that such a process will soon resume.

San Marino also advocates the UN presence in Afghanistan in view of the forthcoming presidential elections and shares the hope that the positive process embarked upon by this Country will go on. Furthermore, we deeply deplore the new attacks of few days ago also against the local offices of the UN.

Mr. President,

with regard to the reforms of the Security Council, the position of the Republic of San Marino is well-known and it is in favour of the increase in the number of non-permanent members, in the most appropriate way, and of the gradual restriction of the right of veto, in view of its eventual elimination. Indeed, the increase of the number of permanent seats and the extension of the right of veto would entail, in our view, greater injustice through the perpetuation of privileges, the

consolidation of discrimination within UN Member States and would limit the power of the General Assembly to elect the most suitable candidates according to the different historical periods.

The Government of San Marino fully endorses Resolution 58/316, adopted by the General Assembly on July 1st, 2004, relating to the revitalization of the work of the Assembly itself. Similarly, we are satisfied with the Resolution, adopted on the same day, granting the Holy See wider and more incisive prerogatives, as Observer.

Mr. President,

The safeguard of human rights and fundamental freedoms, together with full respect for freedom, equality and democracy have always been essential elements in the history of San Marino, and represent the very basis of its 1700 year existence. They continue to regulate relations with other States and with international organizations. It is in that spirit that I express my best wishes to Ms. Louise Arbour, recently appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights.

San Marino firmly believes in the role of the International Criminal Court and has recently supported the draft ICC/UN Relationship Agreement and the setting up of an ICC Liaison Office in New York.

My Country remains strongly committed in the campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty, and it has recently ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right on the abolition of death penalty.

The recent signature and ratification by San Marino of the UN Convention on Eliminating All Form of Discrimination against Women has been followed by a Law granting full gender equality in the transmission of San Marino citizenship to children. Moreover, the Government has subsequently established for the first time in history a Ministry for Equal Opportunities.

As 2004 has been declared the International Year of the Family, we hope that as many Countries as possible will follow San Marino in signing the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child – on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, and on child prostitution and child pornography. In addition, San Marino has recently ratified the 1993 The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, thus starting domestically a wide debate on joint parental custody in case of separation of the parents.

Equal attention is being paid by my Country to the most disadvantaged members of our families and societies and to the issue of the increasing ageing of the population witnessed especially in developed countries. Against this background, our Government has been working to strengthen existing support infrastructures and assistance to the families.

We sincerely hope to reach soon an agreement on the final text of an International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Disabled People.

Mr. President,

San Marino also wishes to underline the relevance of the objectives set forth in the “Monterrey Consensus”, especially considering that 14 million people, including 6 million children, still die of starvation, one billion people has no access to drinkable water and 3 billion human beings do not receive adequate medical care.

Yet, poverty eradication cannot be implemented without respect for the ecosystem. In this regard, a valuable instrument to develop and protect our environment is in our opinion the Convention against Desertification, recently ratified by San Marino, also with a view to actively participate in the International Decade “Water for Life 2005-2015”.

In accordance with the objectives of health for all, San Marino has recently ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and reiterates its support to the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, in the awareness that the spreading of new epidemics requires stronger international cooperation.

Mr. President,

Year after year, when we meet and exchange views, as representatives of our respective Governments, we express deeper and deeper concern and frustration vis-à-vis the many threats severely affecting mankind and possibly jeopardizing our common future.

Yet, the ideals and principles we reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration are still the highest benchmark guiding our efforts, both within our own States and in the work of the United Nations. We need to instil hope and materialize the universal aspirations to peace, cooperation and development.

To this end, let me express my best and deepest wishes to you, Mr. President, to the Secretary-General and all UN officials and to all our Countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.