



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

ADDRESS BY

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OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

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General Assembly
of the United Nations

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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 Ambassador Jan Eliasson on his election as President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly. I also wish to express to the outgoing President, Mr. Jean Ping, the deepest gratitude for his commitment and determination in fulfilling his mandate.

At the outset, I would also like to express my appreciation for the result of the outcome document. I am confident that with a clear mandate to the Heads of State and Government we will be able to reach our goals.

Mr. President,

The United Nations is facing an extremely important and critical time. Indeed, the challenge of the UN reform has become inevitable and necessary to lay the foundations for its future activity.

It is now all too clear that this reform shall concern its major bodies, working methods and management of human and economic resources at the same time. The UN structure will be modified, with the objective to show the entire world that this Organization is an efficient and democratic body guaranteeing peace and development.

The reform, which will cause tensions and require sacrifices, will be criticised by a number of States, as it is the case with all hard compromises. This process will take a long time and encounter numerous obstacles, but it is necessary and indispensable.

San Marino believes that the reform process already set in motion will not stop. However, changes will have to be wide-ranging and aware of the need to face important issues, such as the reform of the Security Council. Most importantly, the reform will have to be supported with the widest possible consensus and based on two principles: democracy and efficiency. We hope the enlargement will take into account the widest geographical and regional representation and that the solution will not be forced in its methods or its ideas, nor should it privilege the interest of few Countries. We share the principles of "Uniting for consensus", and we are ready to consider any proposal that does not create fractures and that can establish a new lasting balance.

For San Marino, the United Nations must rest upon democracy, as legitimating element and moral strength of this Organization. Streamlining structures and procedures is also necessary to reach greater effectiveness, because it is on the field, among people, that the United Nations really fulfils

its mission. Indeed, it is the people who determine the importance of this Organization for the improvement of their lives.

With regard to some essential aspects presently under discussion, San Marino deems that the proposed creation of a Human Rights Council may not solve the basic problem of the Commission Human Rights: politicisation. However, San Marino is of the opinion that human rights protection deserves the same consideration given by ECOSOC to social and economic aspects and by the Security Council to peace and security.

The Human Rights Council should be directly responsible to the General Assembly and have a broad composition allowing an adequate participation of small and medium size Countries. Moreover, the specific competences of the new Council vis-à-vis the Third Committee should be established, in order to avoid duplication of activities and inefficiencies.

The proposed Peace-building Commission is an excellent institutional response to post-conflict situations. Such Commission should play an important role not only in the resolution, but also in the prevention of conflicts. Moreover, it should find ad-hoc solutions for Countries in transition from totalitarianism or institutional anarchy to democracy.

The Commission should submit recommendations to the Security Council on the measures to adopt to guarantee consistency among peace interventions, economic recovery process, rebuilding of national institutions and public administration, strengthening of democracy and rule of law. Moreover, this Commission should be composed both of Security Council and ECOSOC Members and of Countries directly involved in specific situations.

Mr. President,

Only a few days ago, the majority of the world leaders gathered in this very hall to assess and discuss what has been done so far to achieve the Millennium Declaration Goals. Over the last five years, development assistance activities have fallen short of expectations. We sincerely hope that the recently concluded Summit will promote and encourage a stronger commitment by all developed and developing States.

San Marino has followed very attentively the reform process initiated by the Secretary General and has actively participated in the discussions of the Panel's report and of the Report of the Secretary General entitled "In larger freedom", as well as in the negotiations of the Outcome Document of the General Assembly. We would have liked this last document to contain more incisive and comprehensive proposals.

San Marino is aware that development is the sine qua non condition to achieve the Millennium Goals. Still today, in the 21st century, more than a billion people live on less than a dollar a day

and thirty thousand children die every day from hunger. These figures must not leave us indifferent. Only by eradicating poverty, underdevelopment and epidemics, and forgiving the debt of developing Countries, will the collective well-being be achieved.

Peace and security are strictly connected with the Millennium Goals, as they are essential for a Country to improve its economic and human conditions. Peace and security cannot be separated from terrorism concerns, as testified to by the numerous recent coward attacks. Terrorism must not divert the international community from its commitment to promoting democratisation, culture of peace and respect for religions, ethnic groups and different cultures.

The fight against terrorism must be a responsibility of all States, which are called to cooperate at a regional and international level to implement specific and effective preventive measures. Any State must adopt the necessary legislation to break the vicious circle of terrorism and prevent its financing also through economic and banking cooperation.

Mr. President,

The principle of "the responsibility to protect" represents an extremely interesting concept. However, this idea can be accepted only if understood not as a violation of national sovereignty, but as a duty of all States vis-à-vis countries plagued by massacres, genocides and humanitarian crises.

San Marino is closely following the peace process developments in the Middle East. The decision by the Israeli Government to remove its settlers from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank has been one of the most significant steps in the implementation of the Roadmap and Premier Sharon has showed great courage and determination, despite all domestic difficulties, in taking such a decision.

San Marino shares the hope of the international community that also the Palestinian Government will fully respect its commitments and, by completely rejecting terrorist acts by extremist groups, will maintain and strengthen the dialogue and constructive relations responsibly established with the Israeli Government.

We welcome with great satisfaction the recent elections held in a new Afghanistan, now on its way to democracy and with a higher degree of freedom, as well as the elections and the approval of the new Constitution in Iraq, which we hope may lead to a real institutional, social and cultural rebirth of this Country.

Mr. President,

We must not forget to include and underline the situation of women and children in our discussions on the concerns to be addressed at the beginning of this Millennium and on the development of mankind.

Children, in particular, are the most vulnerable to war and famine and bear the burns of adults' actions and decisions. Bombings and conflicts, malnutrition, poverty, diseases which could be treated, child labour and sexual abuse cause them great suffering and death. It would be enough to stop and think of these children to avoid many of the worst events in the world.

This year, my Country has undertaken a number of humanitarian initiatives in favour of children, mainly in Africa, with the support of our Institutions. Let me mention, in this regard, the recent unanimous decision adopted by my Parliament in favour of programmes improving child conditions in Uganda.

Poverty and hunger are a prison in which many women eke out their existence, victims of injustice and discrimination. Our incapacity to free these women, despite all means available, is one of the crying scandals of today. At a time of economic well-being and progress, though not widespread, complicity with this injustice, by negligence or incapacity, is unacceptable. The mass-media now at our disposal do not allow us to ignore this situation. The implementation of Beijing and Beijing +5 is crucial to knock down the walls of this prison and guarantee respect and development to the women of the 21st century.

Last year, San Marino ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and, last June, the Parliament approved the accession to its Optional Protocol. I just deposited the instruments of accession at my arrival here in New York. Moreover, San Marino is constantly committed supporting women's total integration and equality in its society.

On this occasion, I deem it appropriate also to express the hope that the International Community will strengthen its efforts to protect the environment and prevent natural disasters. To this end, international cooperation is of the utmost importance and the Kyoto Protocol is a particularly significant instrument.

On the subject, I wish to reiterate my Country's sentiments of condolences and solidarity to the populations tragically hit by natural disasters, such as those in South-East Asia some months ago and now along the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico in the United States of America.

Mr. President,

Millennium Goals, peace processes, fight against injustices and the many other great challenges seem impossible to face. But mankind has the necessary resources and instruments to achieve these objectives and the United Nations is a major tool at our disposal. I am confident that this Organization will be up to this noble task.

To this end, I express my most sincere wishes to you, Mr. President, to the Secretary General and to all colleagues, diplomats and officials who believe in the ideals of the United Nations.