



**REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU**

**INTERVENTION**

**OF**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR JOÃO SOARES DA GAMA**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUINEA-BISSAU**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**GERAL DEBATE**

**70TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, October 2nd 2015**

Your Excellency, Mr. **Mogens Lykketoft**, President of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Mr. **Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

His Excellency Mr. **José Mário Vaz**, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, has honored me with the task of conveying his congratulations for your election as President of this historic 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and his wishes for great success.

We would also like to commend your predecessor, Mr. Sam Kutesa, for the wise and dignified manner in which he conducted the work of the previous Session of the UN General Assembly.

Your Excellency's election to the Presidency of this Session takes place at a time when all the nations of the world decided to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to lead humanity toward a new direction and to promote a more just world for all. We believe that, with your broad experience and under your leadership, we can get underway toward an effective implementation of this agenda.

As we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, which coincides with the 42<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our independence, Guinea-Bissau continues to experience instability, which is reflected in its vulnerabilities and difficulties in establishing foundations that are conducive to the creation of a stable State, focused primarily on development, to fulfill the dream of Amílcar Cabral, the father of the Bissau-Guinean nation.

While other nations in the world seize this moment to assert their statehood and consolidate their institutions, Guinea-Bissau remains in the phase of search for solutions to our domestic problems of various natures.

The current political situation in Guinea-Bissau shows that our country is still striving to move from fragility to stability.

**Mr. President,**

Despite the recurrent instability, Bissau-Guineans have never doubted the feasibility of our country, as we believe in our capacity to overcome this

challenge once again. Our determination to build the viable State of which we all dream is and will always remain intact.

Our capacity to overcome difficulties and achieve great feats was gloriously demonstrated by our Fighters for the Freedom of the Homeland, who brought about our independence 42 years ago in an exemplary manner under the wise leadership of our much missed Amílcar Cabral and in the context of his Minimum Program.

Today, more than ever, we are resolute in achieving the Maximum Program of this glorious struggle, promoting social and economic development, and the preservation of environment in our country.

With the return to constitutional normality, the government emerging from the April 2014, Legislative elections, in synergy with other institutions of sovereignty, we made efforts, to provide basic conditions required to relaunch our country's economy, and be able to face the new challenges for the consolidation of peace and security in the country.

To this end, the 2015-2025 "**Terra Ranka**" Development Strategy, presented in March 2015 in Brussels was discussed and approved at national level and strongly supported by the International Community, will guide the continuity government's actions, now under the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Carlos Correia. This development strategy is consistent with the goals established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted one week ago by this General Assembly.

We are convinced that the full implementation of this agenda, will greatly contribute not only to our country's sustainable development, but also to the establishment of conditions for definitive peace and stability in the country. In this regard, once again, from this podium, I would like to appeal to the partners and friends of Guinea-Bissau to honor the commitments undertaken in Brussels.

**Mr. President,**

Conflict resolution was one of the primary goals that led to the establishment of our organization in 1945. And today, this same goal continues to be our priority and one of our greatest challenges.

Current conflicts emerge for several reasons and take on ever more sophisticated forms, making it even more difficult to resolve. These difficulties are explained in part and essentially by the inaction on the part of United Nations agencies responsible for their resolution.

There is no political or geopolitical justification for a deadlocked United Nations in the face of the tragedies caused by the conflicts in the Middle East and other regions of the world. Its latest manifestation is the refugee crisis, for which we have the moral responsibility to find a solution.

In this regard, I would like to commend the European Union and other countries for their solidarity in providing the required humanitarian assistance and welcoming refugees.

**Mr. President,**

Issues related to the African continent continue to largely dominate the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, and represent nine of the 16 UN Peacekeeping Operations. Therefore the voice of this continent with 54 countries must be heard and considered in the management of conflicts, and our legitimate claim for two permanent seats and broader representation as non-permanent members on the United Nations Security Council must be heeded.

We reiterate our unceasing appeal for a reform of the United Nations Security Council, based on our belief that the original reasons for the establishment of this important organization have historical significance but do not reflect the world's current political reality.

We also express our support for permanent seats for Brazil, India, Japan, and Germany.

**Mr. President,**

We continue to believe that preventive diplomacy can prove to be more efficient in preventing and resolving conflicts. We believe that the best way to prevent conflicts would be to invest more in combating poverty, promoting gender equality, education, the struggle against social discrimination, and preserving the environment.

The full implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda adopted last week, is without a doubt a step on the right direction and Guinea-Bissau reiterates its commitment on achieving this agenda in its precise terms.

In this context, the fulfillment of commitments undertaken by our partners with respect to public aid to development and other funds for development becomes critical for the most vulnerable countries, such as LDCs and Small Island Developing States, like Guinea-Bissau.

**Mr. President,**

For many years, it has been a tradition for our country to take this podium to appeal for the lifting of the economic and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Today, we would like to welcome the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which were broken since 1961.

We appeal that the Cuban people is given an opportunity so that they can take full advantage of their potential, and freely pursue economic and financial relations with other States and peoples of the world. Therefore, we encourage the United States of America and Cuba to proceed with negotiations toward the normalization of their relations and the total lifting of the embargo.

We hope and wish that the main actors in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process draw inspiration from this example and engage in diplomatic negotiations toward the peaceful coexistence of two States.

We welcome the nuclear agreement between the International Community and Iran and hope that this will result on the normalization of relations with the rest of world, as we firmly believe that the world will be totally secure only if there is indeed a total and complete nuclear disarmament.

Climate changes are an undeniable reality that dangerously threatens the existence of humanity. In this regard, it is important that we all commit to fulfil our responsibilities with the environment by taking into account the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility.

The conference on climate change, which will take place in Paris next December, will undoubtedly offer a new opportunity for the world to correct their behavior with respect to nature.

Therefore we believe that it may produce a robust commitment on the part of the Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make the necessary funds available for the developing countries, to address environmental challenges.

I could not conclude my statement without expressing our gratitude to all our development partners, the United Nations in particular, for the continued follow up of the situation in our country, and for their engagement and commitments to the Brussel Round Table of last March on financing our Strategic operational Program of development. Guinea-Bissau and its people are counting with all of you.

THANK YOU.