



**STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
MR. UMARO SISSOCO EMBALO  
PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC  
OF GUINEA-BISSAU**

**AT**

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF  
THE 76TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*New York, September 22nd 2021*

**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Heads of State and Government,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I warmly congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives Islands, Mr. Abdulla Shahide, President of the United Nations General Assembly, as wish him success.

Faced with the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the theme chosen could not have been more pertinent. Only with renewed hope will we be able to build resilience to face the socio-economic and humanitarian difficulties caused by the worldwide health crisis and to adequately and sustainably respond to the current challenges.

In an increasingly globalized world, the relevance of the existence of the United Nations Organization and its Agencies has become of the utmost importance.

In light of this situation, it is urgent to improve the efficiency of our Organization and to adopt the necessary reforms, in all of its entities, including the Security Council, in order to revitalize the United Nations System in its entirety.

This is the only way for us to work better toward the implementation of the Agenda 2030, the goal of which is to promote human development in all of its aspects, particularly gender equality and respect for Human Rights.

We must support the most vulnerable, promote the creation of adequate health systems, and ensure that all countries, without distinction, have quick and equal access to vaccines.

**\*Mr. President\*,**

Guinea-Bissau, which has, for many years, been supported by the international community, particularly the United Nations, ECOWAS, the CPLP and the African Union, today is focused on the effective achievement of our national goals, such as domestic peacebuilding and the creation of better living conditions for our population, in order to provide renewed hope to Bissau-Guinean society.

In this context and in light of the completion of the United Nations Mission (UNIOGBIS) mandate in our country late last year, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, and all of Guinea-Bissau's friends and partners for their support and to affirm that we have taken over, through our own efforts, the main responsibilities of the State, thus ensuring political stability and the proper functioning of our country's institutions.

**\*Mr. President\*,**

The problem of climate change is an irrefutable reality. While it is felt more frequently and with greater impact in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which include Guinea-Bissau, it is a permanent challenge for all nations. Therefore, our country has developed Climate Change Adaptation plans for the medium and long term and extended our national land and marine protected area system to cover more than 26% of our national territory.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to reaffirm our country's commitment to work with our development partners and the international community in general to find innovative, inclusive, and feasible solutions for the current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We fully believe that, together, we are able to provide renewed hope to our peoples and to build a more solidary and fraternal world.

**Thank you**