



**GRUPPO NAZIONALE PRESSO
L'UNIONE INTERPARLAMENTARE**

**Speech by Andrea Ugolini,
Head of the San Marino Delegation**

General Debate
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Theme: Parliamentary action for social development and justice

Excellencies, Honorable colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I speak today, with a deep sense of responsibility, on behalf of the Republic of San Marino, a land that, for over 17 centuries, has based its existence on the values of freedom, later strengthened by democracy and social justice.

Our presence in this Assembly witnesses a commitment that goes beyond the borders of our small Republic. The reason is that social justice, fair development, and people dignity are not only the aspirations of a few, but universal rights, which belong to all humanity.

Concerning San Marino and the social centrality of the person, note that, since 1955, with the establishment of its Institute for Social Security, San Marino has created a welfare model that guarantees free and universal public healthcare, accessible to all, without distinction of income or social condition.

On 7th March 1955, with the approval of the Social Security Act, our State chose to put first the right to health rather than market interests. This has built a system that still today ensures every citizen access to excellent care, from prevention to specialized treatments, to home care for the most fragile categories.

Over the years, this vision has expanded including a social safety net that guarantees support for families, protection for students and workers, and access to free education. The concept of social security in San Marino actually means collective protection in every daily personal activity. It aims to organize the economy by protecting people's rights.

The value of social justice is part of our history and remains a commitment for the future. Mr. Giuseppe Toniolo, economist and sociologist, stated: "Society cannot be saved without justice, but justice alone is not enough: social charity is necessary." It is with this



spirit that San Marino has always operated, knowing that development is not authentic if it does not mean progress for everyone.

Over the years, we have introduced policies to support employment, protecting the most vulnerable workers and encouraging entrepreneurship. We have guaranteed equal pay for men and women, and we continue to promote an economic model based on solidarity and sustainability. We have created public canteens for workers, students and pensioners.

During the pandemic crisis, San Marino strengthened its social security system, allocating over 30 million euros to protect incomes, businesses and workers, without leaving anyone alone. It was a responsible choice, dictated by the belief that social cohesion is the foundation of stability and progress of a nation.

Considering inclusion and rights of people with disabilities, I am sure that a society is truly fair only if it manages to remove every barrier, both physical and cultural, so that no one is excluded.

San Marino has been committed internally for at least fifty years to this purpose, with visible and appreciable results.

San Marino has made people with disabilities' rights protection a concrete job. In 2021, our Parliament ratified the United Nations Convention on People with Disabilities' Rights, reaffirming the principle that every individual has the right to an autonomous and fully integrated life in society.

Today, our State is implementing school and work inclusion policies that guarantee:

Equal access to education, with personalized courses and specialized support in schools;

Job placement, thanks to incentives for companies that assume people with disabilities;

Removing architectural barriers, with investments in public infrastructure to ensure obstacle-free mobility as already activated through the "San Marino for all" tourism project;

Strengthening home healthcare services, to ensure adequate care for anyone who needs it.



In 2024, our State approved new measures to guarantee the autonomy of people with disabilities, facilitating access to housing and work, because inclusion is not just a social policy, it is a question of justice.

These are not only political choices, but these are acts of civilization. Every society that wants to define itself as fair must guarantee to each individual the opportunity to express its potential, without obstacles, without discrimination, without the fear of not being helped.

Today, we appeal to the international community, as, in an era of growing disparity, we are facing a crucial challenge: give back to people the control of their own future, ensuring real opportunities for growth and well-being for all.

The parliamentary institutions represented here have the duty to build a more equitable world, where economic development can not be the an exclusive aim, but it must be a tool to improve the quality of life of every individual.

The new social contract, promoted by the United Nations, must include three fundamental pillars:

Universal social protection, so that no one is left behind;

Inclusive democratic participation, so that politics could be an expression of everyone's will;

An ethical economy, that measures progress not only in terms of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), but that considers the collective well-being.

In conclusion, San Marino will continue to do its part, being faithful to its vocation of justice, peace and freedom. But our commitment alone is not enough. We need an international community that believes in social justice as an engine to reach progress and that believes in solidarity as the founding principle of human coexistence.

Martin Luther King reminded us: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

May this Assembly not only be a place of words, dialogue and discussion but a laboratory of concrete actions. May a collective commitment start from here, so that every human being can live with dignity, with hope, with justice.



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Thank you

Andrea Ugolini