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**Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of San Marino, H.E.
Mr. Luca Beccari, to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable
Development**

75 years after its foundation, the United Nations is facing the most difficult challenge of its history.

The coronavirus is continuing to spread across the world, infecting millions of people, taking hundreds of thousands of lives. Moreover, COVID-19 is causing a widespread fear about our future.

Will we be able to stop this pandemic? Will we be able to build back better from COVID-19?

We must do it, but we will succeed only if we work together, because this is a collective effort that requires a renewed and strengthened multilateral cooperation.

The pandemic is more than a health crisis. Its negative consequences are upending the global economy. It is also a humanitarian and security crisis, which has accentuated pre-existing structural problems within and among the nations.

Thanks to the strong leadership of the Secretary-General, His Excellency António Guterres, the United Nations mobilized an early and comprehensive response, which encompassed the health, economic and social dimensions of the crisis.

The United Nations not only leads on the response to the health crisis, but is also expanding the means for lifesaving humanitarian assistance and establishing instruments for rapid responses to the socio-economic impact.

In its report on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals", the Secretary-General showed concern for the impact and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on all 17 Goals.

The measures taken to mitigate the effects of the pandemic caused business and factories shutdown, affecting the livelihoods of half of the global workforce and disrupting global value chains and the supply of products.

The most vulnerable groups, like women, older persons, children, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and informal sector workers are suffering dramatically due to the pandemic.

In this context, the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development, launched by the Secretary-General at the beginning of this year, assumes even more importance today because we need to accelerate the pace and scale of our actions, if we want to achieve the SDGs.

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San Marino strongly supports the decade of action and believes that, while the crisis is endangering progress towards the SDGs, it also offers a unique opportunity for pursuing a transformative recovery from COVID-19, which leads us to build more inclusive societies based on sustainable development where no one is left behind.

The Republic of San Marino is devoted to the UN Agenda 2030 both domestically and internationally.

At the national level, while we are generally successful in implementing the SDGs, there are still areas in which we must accelerate our efforts to achieve them. We will continue to incorporate sustainable development into various policy fields and to raise awareness on SDGs.

In order to do so San Marino has established in 2017 an interdisciplinary group working on the assessment and implementation at the national level of the indicators of the Agenda 2030. Last May, the Government established an additional group whose mission is to raise awareness on the SDGs and to shape policies in accordance with the principles of the Agenda 2030 based on a strong political mandate.

At the international level, besides our continuous participation in events and activities aiming at supporting the SDGs, San Marino has given a concrete contribution to the general discussions on the Agenda 2030 by raising awareness on the fight against food loss and waste.

Together with Andorra, San Marino led the negotiations of the UN Resolution that designated September 29 as International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

Today more than ever, it is fundamental to reaffirm our commitment to the values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco 75 years ago. On the basis of these principles and values we must continue to work together to overcome difficulties and to strengthen a rule-based international order.

A stronger multilateralism is essential if we want to put the world on track to deliver its commitments to sustainable development by 2030.

Thank you.

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Luca Beccari)**

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