



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

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**SPEECH BY THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE CAPTAINS REGENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO MIRCO TOMASSONI AND LUCA
SANTOLINI AT THE 24TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies, Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, we would like to express the heartfelt thanks of the Republic of San Marino to the Polish Authorities for the excellent organisation and hospitality at this important event, which allows us to necessarily make together a reflection on the future of our planet.

A San Marino psychiatrist, Sebastiano Bastianelli, during a talk a few weeks ago defined the historical period in which we are living as "the Narcissus time". He meant that the end of the last century and the beginning of this new millennium have been marked by the affirmation, starting from the richest societies to the rest of the world, of a sort of collective narcissism that pushes the citizens of our countries and, going up step by step the social pyramid, politicians and institutions, to focus exclusively on their immediate needs or those of their reference group.

To become politicians people need votes, and to gain the votes of narcissistic citizens, people cannot have long-term views. They need to satisfy instinctive, immediate and partisan needs.

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In this historical context, this is the main problem facing world society, which, at the same time, is addressing the greatest and most complicated challenge for its survival - a challenge against itself.

We have no alternative if we want to limit climate change, combat pollution poisoning water and land, achieve the minimum objectives contained in the Paris agreement, avoid the devastating consequences expected annually in each IPCC report and manage not to destroy our only common home. It is necessary to make bold and expensive political choices very quickly, despite the economic crisis affecting the public finances of most of the countries that we represent here today. These choices do not bring an immediate benefit; they rather require enormous sacrifices, but will allow us to leave a liveable planet, if possible a better one, to our children and grandchildren. This should also be the primary purpose of policymakers.

The Republic of San Marino, which we are honoured to represent today, was only for technical reasons one of the last countries to ratify the Paris Agreement and can certainly make a limited contribution, due to its size, to the global challenge. Nevertheless, it has already set up a series of projects, some of which are already under way, which will be implemented in the coming years, in order to meet the emission reduction and biodiversity protection objectives that we have set all together between now and 2030.

From the reduction of emissions from companies and vehicles and the promotion of sustainable tourism, to the "Organic San Marino" project, which aims to make our small Republic the first country in Europe where only sustainable soil management methods are applied in just 5 years, San Marino is sparing no efforts to do its part, by virtue of that collective responsibility so well identified in the text of the Agreement.

We know, however, that by ourselves we are only a drop in the sea, while the clock is running fast and the time available to us to avoid the disaster is increasingly reducing. We therefore hope that all those who are here today will share with us the need to prioritise environmental issues on the political agenda of their respective countries.

Thank you for your attention.