

Mr. Secretary-General,
Madam President,
Your Majesties,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

All praise is due to the Almighty Allah for granting us the favor of gathering in this August Assembly, once again, to discuss and advance our common global agenda. Please allow me to begin by sincerely thanking H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák for the excellent manner he presided over the 72nd Session as President.
I would like to congratulate you, Madam Maria Garcés, on your

It is an irony that at a time when multiple global challenges are emerging and mounting, support for the work of the United Nations is being undermined through inadequate funding.

Those of us who value the UN, as well as those who have benefitted immensely from its work, should be at the forefront to call upon all Member States to step up support for the Organization. Indeed, the UN has to play a lead role in solving global challenges, and our task is to ensure that it has the required capacity, influence and effectiveness.

Madam President,

Decisions and actions rooted in a rules-based international system that is

We are also resolutely pursuing institutional and constitutional reforms. Such reforms have commenced, with the hope of putting The Gambia on a solid path

Madam President,

When Gambians voted for change in 2016, they actually yearned to be in charge

Madam President,

In our pursuit of a fully transformed Gambia, we recognize the importance of a meaningful engagement with The Gambian Diaspora - fondly referred to as "The Eighth Region of The Gambia".

Our Diaspora strategy seeks to explore and utilize the skills, talent and resources of Gambians everywhere for the successful implementation of the National Development Plan.

The Gambia's experience demonstrates that democracy yields amazing

We are particularly excited that the new strategy views the Sahel as a land of opportunities, and not one of hopelessness. In light of this, we envisage that this strategy will yield important dividends for Africa, especially towards the maintenance of peace and security and the elimination of terrorism in the region.

Strategically, we must disrupt all criminal networks and the financing of trans-

initiatives.

Madam President,

As we battle these negative forces and try to fulfill our aspiration of silencing

We call on the leaders of Libya and Central African Republic to intensify their efforts through political dialogue for national reconciliation and peace.

Madam President,

My government reaffirms its strong support for the two-state solution to establish peace between the Palestinians and their neighbors. Related to this, we pronounce our unconditional recognition of the One-China Policy. Similarly, we recognize the support provided by the Government and People of Bangladesh to address the plight of the Rohingya Muslims.

As the upcoming Chair of the next OIC Summit, The Gambia has undertaken, through a Resolution, to champion an accountability mechanism that would ensure that perpetrators of the terrible crimes against the Rohingya Muslims are

brought to book.

Madam President,

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Before I conclude, let me express sincere condolences to the family of former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. Mr. Annan was a formidable voice on

Kofi Annan will surely be greatly missed