

**INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF THE CAPTAINS REGENT  
(1 October 2022)  
ADDRESS BY THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO**

Your Excellencies the Captains Regent, Maria Luisa Berti and Manuel Ciavatta,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gathering on this solemn occasion gives us the opportunity to relive an important, historic and yet topical moment for the Most Serene Republic of San Marino. This day also allows us to reflect, as Representatives of different Nations and Peoples gathered here, on the role that the International Community and its Institutions play especially in times of crisis such as we are currently experiencing.

The pandemic that has swept across the globe in the last two years continues to cause death with effects on the world's economies, creating poverty and further inequality among peoples; climate change is altering the characteristics and cycles of land and seasons; the clash of weapons, the sounds of destruction and the voices of pain that, in Europe and various other parts of the world, are being heard again in a powerful and worrying way, are all elements of deep concern. At the last UN General Assembly, its Secretary-General warned that "our world is in peril". Pope Francis does not hesitate to repeat that we are living through "a piecemeal Third World War".

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a time when ideas and views on the world are again in contrast with each other, it is more urgent than ever to return to the sources of law as the basis for sound and peaceful international coexistence.

In its preamble, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recalls that “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,” and that “it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations”.

The constant balance between the sovereignty of each State and the international relations binding them is the basis to guarantee civil, religious, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as those defined as “the rights of the Third Generation”, i.e. the right to development and respect for creation.

Active and proactive membership of the international community, oriented towards the future common good, and the guarantor role of the law that governs it, are essential to tackle the crises that we are currently experiencing. Preventive diplomacy based on dialogue, social and economic growth strategies with a long-term horizon, as well as the promotion of the values of peaceful coexistence, are the instruments that international law already holds and guarantees.

Where the rights of individuals and States are respected and protected, the use of violence no longer makes sense. Instead, the way opens up to a negotiated arrangement that can avoid conflicts and misunderstandings, protect people and guarantee them a dignified and peaceful life. The challenges we are currently facing are therefore a pressing appeal to us and to the leaders of nations to let respect and brotherhood prevail over hatred and war.

This commitment to the future of our existence requires the cooperation of all States, without exception. I am therefore confident that you too, Your Excellencies the Captains Regent, will not fail to join in this effort for a better world governed by law and mutual respect. With these sentiments, I wish you a fruitful mandate to achieve this common good, in your dear and noble Republic and in the context of wider international relations. Thank you.