



**SEGRETERIA DI STATO
TERRITORIO, AMBIENTE E AGRICOLTURA**

**Welcome speech at the opening of the 83rd session of the Committee on Urban
Development, Housing and Land Management**

Madam Under-Secretary General of the UN,

Madam President,

Madam Director of the UNECE

Honourable representatives of the countries,

Distinguished Guests,

It is my pleasure and honour to host you in my country, the Republic of San Marino, on the occasion of the 83rd session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations.

The Republic of San Marino is strongly committed to urban planning and to ensure a balanced relationship between built-up areas and the natural environment. Therefore, San Marino is very happy to host the meeting of this Committee. We want to share our experience with all of you, but also learn from the discussion that will take place during these days.

The programme is full of content and is enriched by numerous side events. One of them is the one where I am personally involved in the presentation of San Marino's new general town planning tool as an appendix to the presentation of the Sustainable City Profile of San Marino drawn up by the UNECE.

But what will be remembered from this conference in the near future will be the "San Marino Declaration", which I am sure will remain the greatest success of these days of work.



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The "San Marino Declaration" was strongly desired by the United Nations and the greatest architect, Lord Norman Foster, took part in its drafting. I hope it will be adopted by all countries at this plenary session, as it already has the consensus of all UNECE countries.

The endorsement by all the UNECE countries, the presence of the UN Under-Secretary General and of the Executive Director of the UNECE, and of the world's greatest environmental and territorial professionals and scholars, makes me and all San Marino citizens very proud of this important event, also because the "San Marino Declaration" will go down in our country's history.

The Declaration, with Lord Foster as its first signatory, invites architects and engineers who will sign it, as well as the countries that will adopt it, to apply the principles it contains which are related to social responsibility and inclusivity, respect for nature and climate neutrality.

Tomorrow, Lord Foster will hold an important *Lectio Magistralis* on sustainable architecture at the Titano Theatre.

San Marino is a small country, with a territorial extension of sixty-one (61) square kilometres and a resident population of thirty-three thousand six hundred (33,600) inhabitants, of whom over five thousand (5,000) are not San Marino citizens. Approximately thirteen thousand (13,000) San Marino citizens reside abroad, in all the world's continents, but mainly in Italy, the United States, France and Argentina. San Marino is a small country but, as stated in the Declaration of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2008, it is one of the oldest republics in the world and - I quote - "the only surviving city-State, representing an important stage in the development of democratic models in Europe and worldwide". San Marino is an exceptional testimony of the establishment of a representative democracy based on civic autonomy and self-governance and an exceptional testimony of a living cultural tradition that has lasted for seven centuries".



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The Republic of San Marino is implementing urban regeneration policies that can make communities safer and more inclusive. The policies on sustainability, inclusion and biodiversity protection are indeed the basis of the main planning and land management tools, to be contained in the new General Town Planning Tool and the UNESCO Site Management Plan.

Today's building heritage of the Republic of San Marino and its urban organisation are the result of historical events, economic relations, and structural and urban planning choices made during the 20th century.

The current Government of the Republic of San Marino intends to bring about a profound and radical transformation of the urban fabric. We believe that it is important for territorial policies to be integrated with the environment and we intend to consider the territory not only as a physical or natural environment, but as a place where people, families and all human activities can find the optimal living, health and self-expression conditions and as a resource that, due to its natural beauty, is attractive to visitors and businesses.

I am very pleased that here in San Marino there will be a follow-up of the Forum of Mayors, which took place at the UN in Geneva last April, where San Marino was represented by the Head of the City of San Marino Township participated. Bearing in mind that the environmental and land management of cities is the responsibility of local authorities, I wish that this forum can evolve and become an annual UN event. This would be another important success of this Committee, which takes place in San Marino.

In conclusion, it is my duty to sincerely thank UNECE Director Paola Deda, San Marino's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva Marcello Beccari, the Director of the San Marino Public Works Autonomous State Corporation, Giuliana Barulli, and all the collaborators who made this session of the Committee possible.

I wish you all a fruitful work.



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Thank you.

Minister Stefano Canti