Address by His Excellency Macky Sall,  
President of the Republic of Senegal

Theme: Building resilience through hope— to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations

New York, 24 September 2021
Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Dear Colleagues,

Mr. Secretary General

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President, Senegal congratulates you on your election to preside over the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and wishes you every success in the discharge of your duties.

I would like to reiterate our congratulations to the Secretary General upon his re-election and wish him every success in the exercise of his mission for the benefit of Member States.

The theme of this session is a reminder of the magnitude and the urgency of the challenges which we face to arrive at a better and safer world.

This is most urgent in the Sahel, where terrorist groups continue their deadly attacks and looting against innocent populations.

As a troop contributor to MINUSMA, with 1,350 troops, Senegal stands in solidarity with its sister countries that are being severely tested.

We continue to advocate for MINUSMA to be vested with a robust mandate to effectively combat terrorist groups.

Moreover, it is essential that the G5 Sahel member countries receive substantial support in their vital struggle against terrorism.

Wherever it may take root, terrorism remains a global threat; and the UN collective security system must fight it. We must not allow Africa to become a safe haven for international terrorism.

In the Middle East, Senegal reiterates its call for the fulfilment of the right of the Palestinian people to a viable state, coexisting peacefully with the State of Israel, each within secure and internationally recognized borders.
There is also an **urgent need** to combat the devastating health-related, economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senegal has opted for a transparent management of the disease as soon the first positive case was detected, on 2 March 2020, by publishing a daily report about the situation.

Moreover, we have deployed an Economic and Social Resilience Programme of **nearly two billion dollars**, to support households, businesses, workers and our diaspora, to significantly expand our medical resources, to ensure free testing and care, and to acquire vaccines.

I wish to thank partner countries and institutions for their support in our fight against the pandemic. I applaud the generous and concerted surge of support through the COVAX initiative.

Despite these significant efforts, the **divide between vaccinated countries in the North and unvaccinated countries in the South is widening**, which will only delay the eradication of the pandemic and the return to normal life for all. The **each man for himself** mentality will not get us out of the pandemic. Nobody will be safe if the virus and its variants continue to circulate somewhere in the world.

**Only a global response, facilitating access to vaccines for all, will end this global scourge.**

In this spirit, I wish to thank the countries and partner institutions that support the vaccine production project of the Institut Pasteur in Dakar. This is a major initiative, in the service of Africa. Senegal will contribute to the financing of the project through part of our **SDRs**.

At the same time, it is incumbent upon us to persevere in our efforts to achieve economic recovery.

This is the purpose of the **New Deal** with Africa, which was an outcome of the Paris Summit on 18 May on the financing of African economies. Thanks to the consensus reached within the G20, **the first objective of the Summit has been achieved**, with the historic issue of Special Drawing Rights to the tune of **$ 650 billion**. I applaud the diligent approach of **Ms Kristalina**
Georgieva, Director General of the International Monetary Fund, in achievement of this consensus. Africa was thereby able to have its share of $33 billion quota to shore up its health resilience, mitigate some of the impact of the crisis and launch our economic recovery. This is a significant step forward which should be welcomed. However, given the profound impact of the crisis, Africa needs at least $252 billion in additional financing by 2025 to contain the shock and kick-start its economic recovery.

Let us therefore work together to achieve the second Paris goal. This involves reallocating, in favour of African countries, according to modalities to be agreed upon, $67 billion, which can be mobilised from the SDR shares of wealth, consenting countries, in order to reach the agreed upon 100 billion threshold. We can achieve this by maintaining the open and trust-based dialogue already underway. This is how we can lay the foundations for a New Deal with Africa, through a reformed, fairer and more inclusive global economic and financial governance. This New Deal is possible, if we ensure that the relationship paradigms with the continent are based more on partnership than on official development assistance. Clearly, assistance cannot meet the needs of a continent of over 1 billion people where much is yet to be built. In addition to its internal efforts, Africa in search of emergence needs above all access to substantial concessional and mixed resources, in the form of loans, to finance the sectors that are vital for its economic take-off: infrastructure, energy, agriculture, industry, water and sanitation, health, education and training, among others. To this end, a New Deal with Africa should help overcome the deterministic mindsets that have been impeding the continent's access to those resources. I will call on partner countries and institutions to work with us to relax OECD rules to harness the potential of investment in Africa. This will be to everyone's advantage, as the investment needs of an Africa under construction represent opportunities for shared growth and prosperity.
Similarly, reform of the United Nations is necessary 76 years after the birth of our Organisation. The multilateral system inspires confidence so long as it brings together the aspirations and interests of all stakeholders.

It is high time for the composition of the Security Council to reflect the realities of the United Nations of the 21st century, in all its diversity, and not the realities of the obsolete, post-war world landscape.

Senegal reaffirms its commitment to the common African position expressed in the Ezulwini Consensus.

**Building our shared future also means taking care of our planet**, in line with the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility in the face of the ravages of global warming.

As part of its National Determined Contribution, Senegal is pursuing its energy transition efforts, increasing renewable energy to more than 30% of its installed power capacity.

This will be strengthened with the ongoing project for the solar electrification of 1000 villages, in partnership with the Green Climate Fund and the West African Development Bank.

Ultimately, thanks to the gas-to-power strategy, we aim to achieve the goal of **100%** clean energy with the forthcoming exploitation of our gas resources.

However, our countries cannot achieve an energy transition and abandon the polluting patterns of the industrialised countries without a viable, fair and equitable alternative. **The exploitation of natural gas as a transition energy should be supported.**

This is why Senegal considers that stopping funding for the gas sector, under the pretext that gas is a fossil fuel, without taking into account the fact that it is also, and above all, a clean energy, would be a major obstacle in our efforts to achieve energy transition, universal access to electricity, competitiveness and economic and social development.

**Our countries, which are already shouldering the crushing weight of unequal trade, cannot bear the burden of an unfair energy transition.** I therefore call for the maintenance of mechanisms to finance gas as a transition energy.
Another major challenge which we are facing is the status of women in the world.

As we have just commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Generation Equality Initiative, we know that progress has certainly been made.

But more importantly, we know that we are a long way from the goal of eliminating all forms of inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls.

It is not acceptable that women and girls, who make up half of humanity, continue to suffer such treatment in the 21st century. In this regard, Senegal, in January 2020, criminalised acts of rape and paedophilia.

Let us continue the general mobilisation for the protection and empowerment of women, but also of young people, including through the promotion of inclusive financing and the mobilisation of resources under the Global Financing Facility campaign, initiated by the World Bank.

Mr. President, Dear Friends,

These are, without a doubt, difficult and uncertain times. However, let us maintain hope, as suggested in the theme for this session suggests. To achieve this, we need to act bearing in mind that the United Nations was built on the promise of a better world, governed by respect for the principles of sovereignty, cooperation and diversity of peoples.

It is faith in these ideals that has brought representatives of people together in this hall for the past 76 years.

Therefore, every blow to sovereignty, every blow to cooperation and diversity, is a blow to our shared ideals, a blow to our reason for being here.

A world weary of the blight of war, isolationism, environmental destruction and material servitude is headed for a fall.

The promise of a better world for all can bloom in the soil of dialogue and mutual respect; not in the dogma of conformity, cultural and civilisational contempt.
This promise blossoms in the spirit of openness, respect and care for the other, easing the plight of the hungry, the thirsty, the poor, of those who are ill disease and those who lack education.

To this end, we cannot be satisfied with a future of promises. We must work for a future of fulfilled promise.

This future requires us to lay down our arms, to stand in stronger solidarity, to protect our environment, to cultivate our shared values, to accept and respect our differences, while renouncing the civilisational diktat.

In this way, we will bring forth the world of our dreams, a world of peaceful coexistence, a better world for all.

I wish every success for the 76th Session of the General Assembly.

Thank you.