



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT

BY

**H. E. SHEIKH PROFESSOR ALHAJI DR. YAHYA A J J JAMMEH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

AT THE

RIO + 20 CONFERENCE

IN BRAZIL

20TH - 22ND JUNE 2012

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Your Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Brazil

Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Your Majesties

Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of State and Government

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and delight that we have gathered here in the beautiful city of Rio to discuss and propose ways of ridding our nations of the critical Economic Development challenges that plague our planet.

In the context of the global quest for Sustainable Development (SD), this conference could not have come at a more appropriate time, noting that the calamities that beset the world are worsening by the day. Regrettably, accentuating the atrocities, conflicts and disasters that abound is the unfortunate consequences of unbridled greed that resulted in the 2008 economic crisis, which continues to hamper economic growth and is crippling the global economy. While some of these crises that perplex us are ascribable to natural phenomena, many are created and perpetuated by evil human activities by some powers, and, therefore, are avertable.

Given these predicaments that confront us nationally and globally, the objective of the Rio+20 Conference of securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing progress and strategising for the future cannot come at a better time.

Mr. Chairman

This meeting has to go beyond pronouncements, political will and commitment to include effective action and follow-ups. For instance, it is insufficient to bemoan the fact that one-fifth of the world population currently live on about \$1.25; or, that Greenhouse emission continues

to escalate, and can lead to the extinction of various living species including humans if climate change is not seriously and urgently addressed. It is high time that appropriate action was taken. The situation becomes more alarming when one recalls that about a billion and a half of the world population do not have access to electricity, and that two and a half billion people reside in unsanitary environments. Worse still, almost a billion persons go hungry every day, with the livelihoods of a large part of the world population threatened. At the same time trillions of Dollars are being diverted away from social spending to defence spending!

All these make it imperative for world leaders and their partners to adopt common and humane approaches, guided by divine moral values Allah Fearing hearts, in order to realise the desired objective. One of these is the total elimination of war mongering, Global hegemony and the insatiable appetite to rule the whole world. We, in The Gambia, subscribe to the Development Economy as a means of achieving sustainable Development, protect the environmental, promote high living standards and an equitable but just distribution of national income; and not promoting a war Economy.

We acknowledge that economic growth and poverty reduction, increased quality and coverage of social services, continued protection of natural resources (bearing in mind new and emerging challenges) are all relevant and crucial if the Social or Green Economy agenda is to be achieved. Low income countries, such as The Gambia, continue to lament the degradation of the environment. Notwithstanding their low gas emissions, when natural disasters strike, the impact is often devastating for these developing countries. In unison, we must shoulder the responsibility of curbing such threats to human survival.

**Distinguished Personalities
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The current mad rush to acquire lethal weapons of mass destruction and the West's total disregard for the sanctity of human life outside of the west makes the dream of sustainable development an illusive one. Everyday more than 98% of scientific research where trillions of Dollars are spent is on Military and defence technology. Less than 10% of current scientific and technological breakthroughs is on Biomedical or Medical technology.

I am convince beyond reasonable doubt that war does not enhance sustainable Development but sustainable destruction or endemic poverty. More alarming is the deteriorating moral decay and lack of any spiritual and divine values that would have entrenched love for humanity, decency and fear of Allah in the minds of the Western super powers instead of entrenched racism, hate and blatant disregard for the sanctity of human life in Africa, Asia and the non white world etc.

Every day we see destructive activities in third world countries by the wealthy north either directly by Governments (powers) or indirectly through their multinational companies. From destruction of the Environment in their indiscriminate search for wealth through mineral and natural resources extraction which culminate in catastrophic consequences for both the indigenous populations and the environment.

How can there be sustainable development when instead of promoting a culture of peace and security; super powers promote hegemony, exploitation, racism, hypocrisy and double standards and the invasion of third world countries with such extraordinary brutality that even satan sometimes thinks that he is not as evil as human beings can be today?

I do not want to be a pessimist, but it will take a miracle to achieve sustainable development globally as long as the powers that are hell-bent on not only dictating and imposing their will/ideology and ungodly philosophy on the third world with impunity but getting richer at the expense of others. The scramble for Global hegemony has unleashed a very dangerous Arms race that has never been seen in human History. Today we hear of inventions of robotic war machines – super smart weapons of mass destruction, military uniforms that make soldiers invisible, cluster munitions, stealth Aircrafts, stealth missiles, Mothers and Fathers of all Bombs supersized Aircraft carriers, Super Nuclear Submarines etc. etc. – All these developments mean one thing, to kill as many people as possible and within the shortest possible period of time. Latest generation of Nuclear war weapons, missiles, Drones etc. are a threat to sustainable development globally.

For us to achieve sustainable Development globally, First there must be a political and moral will on the side of all world leaders to abandon the path of warmongering and tread the path of global peace and justice so that instead of Military Uniforms that make soldiers invisible to the enemy on which millions of Dollars have been wasted on research, we will have clothing that will make humans invisible to Malaria-Carrying Mosquitoes as we all know that Malaria is the Number One killer disease in most parts of the developing world.

Instead of Super bombs (Mothers and Fathers of all Bombs) we want smart anti-viral vaccines (the Mothers and Fathers) of all vaccines that would make human resistant or immune to diseases like Asthma, Cancer, Parkinsons, TB, AIDS, Diabetes etc.

Instead of all terrain Deadly Military tanks, we want super smart all terrain Agricultural tractors, planters, weeders and combined harvesters.

Instead of Deadly Nuclear bombs and artillery we want most sophisticated Surgical equipment that can make surgery less painful and less time consuming. Instead of Super Aircraft Carriers, we want ultra modern Hospital ships with a global reach that can give medical treatment to all parts of the world at a minimal cost.

Instead of deadly Biological and chemical weapons, we want super seeds or crops that would feed every living soul on earth with nutritious food thereby eradicating hunger and poverty.

Instead of spending trillions of dollars on Missile shield, spend those trillions on anti-hurricane, tornado, bush fire and flood shields. After all, the best and most effective missile shield is not expensive as it costs a few thousand dollars. That is a complete return to Allah, make peace with everybody, adopt the Art of absolute Tolerance, move away from the current war posture and Defence Economy to a social and peace loving economy. Abandon your crazy illusions of world domination and tread the path of love and tolerance for all of humanity, respecting the fact that there is an Allah given right to cultural, spiritual, demographic and Religious Diversity that is sacred and inviolable only then can any power be secured or shielded from missiles. All the above cost nothing other than abandoning our hateful, evil and Ungodly intentions towards the rest of humanity that

we consider different and inferior to us and that they should therefore be dictated to live and exist according to our will.

We should promote social, cultural, scientific and Agricultural alliances across the globe and not military alliances. We should spend more money on positive change to human livelihood across the globe rather than spending billions of dollars on dangerous military misadventures such as regime change with their attendant catastrophic consequences to not only the human and economies of the countries targeted but to whole regional economies and livelihoods, thereby entrenching endemic poverty and destitution. Come on we humans are supposed to be more civilized and God-fearing than that.

We want millions of tons of food for the poor and wretched of the earth and not bombs, tanks, air strikes and stealth killer drones. For there to be sustainable Development that will be global and beneficial to humanity, the west must change from its current objective of world domination through confrontation and hatred to Global Tolerance, love and guaranteed security for all of the human race. They must accept the reality of humanity and that is our diversity.

Let our Diversity be a uniting and loving factor in our relationship and not adivisive, hateful and racist factor. The West has been responsible for all that is destructive, divisive and Un-Godly to the human race for centuries since the creation of Man. From slavery, colonialism, exploitation, racism and two deadly world wars! I sincerely pray to the Almighty Allah to prevent the West from unleashing a third world war. Such a likely eventuality would turn this world into a living hell for all living creatures more so the human race.

Mr. Chairman,

We the young people of the human race pay the highest price for all the evil excesses of the older Generation of humanity. We are the soldiers that fight wars blindly for the interest of a few evil hearted creatures in leadership positions and, after the war, face the daunting realities of unemployment, poverty and destitution.

We are the ones that are being trafficked as slaves, worked to death and when we grow old and weak, we realize that somebody has gotten very rich at our own expense.

Mr. Chairman,

The summit should come up with concrete steps to stop wars, exploitation, racism and Death Technologies. We must abandon double standards in the international justice systems and institutions that are created to give hope, inspiration and protection to all of humanity. Unfortunately these are today being hijacked by the super powers for ulterior motives – For example, third world, petty war criminals are being hunted down by the international justice institutions at the behest of the west, whereas Western serial war criminals that killed hundreds of thousands of people in the third world are being praised as heroes and guarantors of Freedom. These war criminals have invaded countries thousands of kilometers away from their own countries, killed hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children in the name of regime change. “Regime change” which is the preserved right of western powers today to invade, occupy and plunder the resources of third world countries, replaces the term “Dark Continent” which was the pretext the same west used centuries ago to come and colonize the third world for centuries with devastating consequences. This time around, they will not have it the way they want it, as we are

all ready to defend our sovereignty, our natural resources and our human dignity and freedom to the last human being no matter how powerful and well equipped they may be.

Sustainable development can only come when the sovereignty, dignity and freedom of all of humanity and especially those of the third world's people are guaranteed.

On this note I call on all the young people of the world to unite against exploitation, war and hate. After all, our rights can only be realized when we unite and take on the war mongering older generation to bring about permanent global peace and collective security, where human life and dignity is guaranteed.

We must unite as from today irrespective of race, religion or nationality. Only a peaceful and stable world can guarantee us of a bright future. All the occupy movements should be turned in a global anti war, anti exploitation and anti racism movement. In a nutshell we should have a global human solidarity movement of young people and peace loving older generation members of the human family. If we all come together with the Fear of Allah in our hearts bonded by love, tolerance and mutual respect, we can assure global peace and security. Only then can sustainable Development on a global scale be achieved guaranteeing a bright, peaceful and prosperous future for our children and Generations of humanity yet on born.

I thank you for your kind attention.