

# Speech at the Second World Summit on Social Development

Doha, November 2025

Excellencies,

Honourable Members of Government,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to address this Second World Summit on Social Development, on behalf of the Head of State of Guinea-Bissau, His Excellency Umaro Sissoco Embaló.

We gather here to reaffirm our collective commitment to social justice, human dignity, and the eradication of poverty — the foundations of truly sustainable development.

In a world marked by multiple crises — climatic, economic, and geopolitical — this Summit stands as a testament to the power of international cooperation and to the importance of a renewed multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Guinea-Bissau, we believe that social development is the cornerstone of peace and shared prosperity.

For this reason, we have directed our national policies towards strategic investment in our greatest asset: human capital.

With the support of the World Bank, we have launched a 20-million-dollar project to improve access to healthcare, reduce maternal and child mortality, combat malnutrition, and expand access to quality basic education.

We are also establishing a national social protection system, including economic inclusion measures for youth and a unified social registry to better target public assistance.

These efforts are beginning to bear fruit. Our Human Development Index has risen from 0.483 to 0.514 — a modest yet significant achievement reflecting tangible progress in health, education, and income. It is a clear sign that we are moving in the right direction.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking ahead, our vision is clear: a fairer, more inclusive, and more resilient society.

Political stability remains the essential condition for all progress. The upcoming presidential and legislative elections will be

conducted with serenity, transparency, and dialogue, further consolidating our democratic rule of law.

During our Presidency of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) for 2025-2027, Guinea-Bissau will continue to advocate for stronger international cooperation, promoting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Oceans Agenda, and supporting the success of COP30 in Brazil.

We equally reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and to policies that address the root causes of fragility — including climate change and social exclusion.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals has slowed alarmingly. Sovereign debt burdens are increasing, while development assistance is declining.

Guinea-Bissau therefore joins the call for urgent reforms of the multilateral system, including the expansion and democratization of the Security Council, ensuring that the Global South has both a place and a voice.

Only through such reforms can we restore trust and make multilateralism a genuine instrument of global justice.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let this Summit not be merely a moment of reflection, but a turning point.

May our words translate into concrete actions, mobilized resources, and authentic partnerships.

The people of Guinea-Bissau — like the peoples of all nations represented here — deserve nothing less than our total commitment to a future of peace, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Thank you.