



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

STATEMENT BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

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OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the 65th session of the General Assembly and to assure you that you can count on the support of Angola so that at the end of this session, we will all be better prepared to respond to the multiple and complex challenges facing the international community.

I also take this opportunity to convey, through you, our most sincere feelings of gratitude to the outgoing President, for the selfless manner in which he conducted the 64th session.

Mr. President,

In the last decade, we have witnessed several events that have profoundly marked the world community, including natural disasters and man-made disasters, which should lead us to consider the need to work towards a more cooperative and increasingly integrated world, as no one is immune to these phenomena.

The terrorist attack of 2001 on the twin towers of New York that killed over 3,000 people, the Tsunami of December 2004 that killed more than 200,000 people, the recent earthquake in Haiti that caused more than 200,000 deaths and the series of natural disasters that have occurred on every continent, added to the global financial and economic crisis, should awaken us to the fact that we live in a different world that requires broader cooperation among nations.

Therefore, in this modern world, the consequences of the irresponsibility of a few can have an impact on the lives of us all. It is thus imperative that we pursue relationships with more balance and equality between large and small and rich and poor because the new reality is that we are increasingly interdependent in this global world.

Angola, Mr. President, was always aware of the importance and the role reserved for the UN and multilateral diplomacy in general, because no country can progress and develop unilaterally, isolated from the community of nations and alienated from the common problems affecting humanity as a whole.

Mr. President,

In your speech at the General Assembly, on the occasion of your election, among other things, you set the following topics as priorities for the period of this 65th session:

- Climate change;
- The Millennium Development Goals;
- Food security;
- Sustainable Development;
- Rebuilding and strengthening fragile states in post-conflict; and
- Humanitarian Aid and Disarmament.

Angola is of the opinion that the environment and other issues mentioned by Your Excellency must remain a priority in the national and international agenda, as they are crucial for sustainable development, for the growth of our economies, for the implementation of national strategies to combat poverty and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the FAO African Regional Conference held recently in Luanda, the participants expressed concern about the impact of climate change on the food crisis in some regions, and recommended that States make an extra effort to reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture.

Mr. President,

Angola believes in the importance of multilateralism as the best form of treatment and resolution of the multifaceted challenges that humanity is confronted with today.

In this context, Angola advocates a shared commitment to find solutions at all levels for the problems we face. My country gives priority to political and diplomatic coordination and to the strengthening of institutional relations with the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and sub-regional organizations to which it belongs, namely the African Union, SADC, ECCAS, ICGL, and the Commission on the Gulf of Guinea, the latter with headquarters in Angola.

Within the Commission on the Gulf of Guinea, Member States cooperate towards managing potential conflicts linked to sea borders, overseeing the management of shared maritime resources, as well as coordinating policies for the prevention of sea trafficking and piracy, thus providing security to a region that produces more than 15% of the world's oil.

It is based on this motivation, Mr. President, that Angola and its armed forces bravely participated in the liberation of Southern Africa, having contributed to the independence of Namibia and the end of apartheid in South Africa. It was with that same motivation that we contributed to the stabilization of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where with other international partners of the United Nations, we are participating in the formation of the DRC armed forces to date.

Today, the Angolan Armed Forces are a factor for stability not only for Angola but also for the Southern and Central regions of Africa, where we are part of the early warning mechanisms of SADC and ECCAS. We are currently committed to finding solutions to the crisis in Guinea-Bissau in close cooperation with other partners in West Africa, namely, the ECOWAS.

It was therefore with great amazement, Mr. President, that we learned of the mention of the Angolan Armed Forces' involvement in alleged acts of human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in a report intended to be circulated as a document of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We further stress that this document was produced at the initiative of an agency of the United Nations Secretariat with no specific mandate from the Secretary-General or UN Member States.

It is important to underline before this Noble Assembly that Angola intervened in the DRC based on a mandate by SADC at the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This intervention contributed to the staunching of the bloodshed and to saving the lives of millions of people, and laid the groundwork for the negotiations that culminated with the establishment of the transitional government, the installation of the UN peacekeeping mission, and the successful holding of the first democratic elections, contributing also for the pacification of the Great Lakes region.

Angola vehemently rejects this suggestion and considers abnormal the manner in which this so-called "mapping exercise" was conducted, and it questions the motivations behind this venture.

We would like to reiterate, Mr. President, that Angola and the Angolan Armed Forces shall continue to act responsibly, based on international standards and scrupulous respect for human rights.

Mr. President,

The report that the Secretary General of the United Nations presented to the 65th session, document A/65/69, contains various references to peace and security, considering them essential to development and to the promotion and respect for human rights.

Angola shares the concerns of the Secretary General. Our experience shows that only peace, the democratic rule of law and respect for human rights can guarantee the stability necessary for sustainable development and the improvement of the living conditions of our people.

In this context, Angola encourages the efforts undertaken by regional organizations and the United Nations in conflict resolution and peacekeeping in order to ensure global security and stability.

Mr. President,

A situation that is certainly a concern for all of us is the conflict in the Middle East. Angola recognizes that it has lasted a long time, with serious consequences for the population, and for this reason we support the resumption of peace talks by President Barack Obama, aimed at creating a Palestinian state that co-exists peacefully with the State of Israel.

Mr. President,

Angola is concerned with the persistence of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, despite successive resolutions of this General Assembly demanding its immediate removal.

This unilateral measure, particularly its extraterritorial effects, is contrary to the principles and norms of international laws and contributes to the precarious humanitarian and social situation of the Cuban population. In this connection, we reiterate our vehement appeal to the lifting of a measure whose anachronism has in numerous occasions been restated by this Assembly.

Regarding the question of Western Sahara, Angola notes with concern that despite various resolutions and UN initiatives, there has not been the type of progress that will lead to meeting the aspirations of the people of that region. In this context, we urge the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to attain these objectives.

Mr. President,

Mutually beneficial cooperation and promotion of peace, friendship, and the respect for human rights, remain the major drivers of the Angolan foreign policy, grounded in the observance of the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality and non-interference in internal affairs of other countries.

Internally, and as a result of experiences during different periods in our history, which was marked by three decades of war and political instability, Angola is now entering a new cycle of which we are very proud, characterized by the adoption of a new constitution, which marks the end of the transition period and finally establishes a Democratic State and the rule of law.

We are aware that we still have a long way to go, especially taking into account all the time lost and delays accumulated in several areas.

But on the other hand, it seems important to us to emphasize that the progress already achieved was not by chance; it followed the efforts of the Angolan Executive Organs and the pragmatism of its policies and its commitment to improving the human development indexes, which certainly are reflected in the progress and welfare of populations.

After eight years of peace, Angola implemented economic and social reform policies that have allowed the revitalization of its economy and the rehabilitation of key infrastructures. Such policies have allowed the country's annual growth rates to average double digits, with a direct impact on the improvement of basic indicators of the Millennium Development Goals.

Since 2002, more than 2 million children were enrolled in primary education. The percentage of children attending school has risen sharply to 76%. The rate of infant and maternal mortality fell considerably to 1400 | 100,000 live births in 2001, to 660 | 100 000 live births in 2010.

Moreover, in order to eradicate hunger and poverty, Angola has adopted the National Food Security Strategy (2009-2014) as a mechanism that will increase agricultural production sustainably.

We are convinced that the international community is also aware of how much still has to be done, particularly in the areas of funding for development, and the materialization of the commitments made at major international conferences on financing for development.

Mr. President,

For its importance in the democratization of international relations, the reform of the Security Council must remain a topic in the agenda of our organization.

In this context, Angola reiterates its support for the African common position embodied in the Ezulwini Consensus.

I thank you most sincerely for your attention.