



**Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. MANUEL DOMINGOS VICENTE
VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

AND

**HEAD OF THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION
TO THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2013

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820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency Mr. President,
Your Excellency Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo dos Santos, allow me to congratulate Ambassador William Ash for his election to the presidency of this General Assembly, and by assuring you of our support in the fulfillment of this noble mission.

I would also like to express our gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremic for the effective manner in which he conducted the work of the previous session.

We further salute the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for his continued dedication to the cause of our Organization.

Mr. President,

This session of the General Assembly takes place in a complex international climate, and one that requires the intervention of the international community to provide sustainable solutions to conflicts that constitute serious threats to international peace and security.

The prevalence of armed conflicts and their impact on populations, terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, maritime piracy, environmental crimes and looting of resources, as well as extreme poverty, deprivation and hunger are issues that require priority attention from our Organization.

Angola reiterates the importance of the role of the UN as the driving force of global efforts to maintain peace, stability and economic and social development, and it is therefore important to strengthen the capacity of the UN for conflict prevention and crisis management.

My country will continue to contribute actively in peacekeeping efforts, assuming responsibilities at the international level, in particular with regards to Africa, as well as in the regional framework and the economic and political groups it is a part of, including SADC, ECCAS, the CPLP, the international Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea.

In this context, the Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the DRC and the Great Lakes Region, signed in February 2013 in Addis Ababa, is both the most appropriate mechanism for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern DRC, as well as the best guarantee for stability in the region and for safeguarding the peace, security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC.

We reiterate our call to the signatories of the Framework to respect their commitments and condemn the threats that negative forces continue to pose to civilian populations, particularly in the city of Goma and its surroundings.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Concerning the global efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security, we reiterate the importance of the revitalization of the United Nations system, particularly the reform of the Security Council, which should reflect a fair representation of all regions by increasing the number of its permanent members, thus adapting it to the realities of the contemporary world.

We express our deep concern over the escalation of violence that is taking place in Egypt and we add our voice to the call on the transitional authorities to act with moderation. We urge the African Union and the international community to continue their work towards a solution to the crisis in this country.

The conflict in Syria poses a risk to international peace and security, and the violence seriously worsens the humanitarian situation in the region. We call on the international community to act urgently in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, under the mediation of the United Nations and the Arab League, and we urge respect for the human rights of civilians.

The Israel / Palestine conflict is one of the oldest challenges in our planet, and one that still confounds the international community.

Angola supports the mediation efforts undertaken by Secretary of State John Kerry, and hopes for the resumption of dialogue and the conclusion of an agreement between Palestine and Israel that can convert the deadlock into lasting peace and an independent Palestinian State with the territorial borders drawn in 1967, coexisting with Israel in peace and security.

We note with concern the weak progress in resolving the question of Western Sahara and we urge the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations, so that the People of Western Sahara can exercise their right to self-determination.

Angola welcomes the normalization of the legal / constitutional framework of some African countries, who after tumultuous periods of instability, have successfully held free and fair elections and are now making strides towards building democratic states and the rule of law, as well as economic and social development. In this connection, we welcome President Ibrahim Keita, from Mali, who was democratically elected, and we express our solidarity with the process of reconciliation and reconstruction of the country.

We also salute the countries with positive developments, and which despite having situations of instability, are engaged in the implementation of agreements aimed at resolving crises and normalizing their constitutional frameworks, including Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and we call on the support of the entire international community to the efforts that are being developed by these countries to achieve peace and stability.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Six years after the onset of the international financial crisis, with serious repercussions to the world economy, we find that many of our countries have serious difficulties to self-finance economic growth programs, and to mobilize resources for development in order to improve their living conditions and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

This situation is even more dramatic for developing countries, particularly African countries, where the coexistence of armed conflict and poverty is quite accentuated.

In this context, the Angolan Government considers it of great importance to discuss the central theme of this session—the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in hopes that it will make an effective contribution to the economic and social development of developing countries.

The Angolan government is of the view that this session should consider the possibility of holding regional meetings based on the report of the High Level Panel, in which different leaders could define their positions on the "Post-2015 Agenda" from a regional perspective, and which could be followed by a global meeting.

In this connection, the Government of Angola reiterates its support for initiatives aimed at the liberalization of international trade in a context of fair and balanced competitiveness, and we hope that the 9th Round, scheduled for December in Bali, will achieve the best results.

Mr. President,
Dear Delegates,

Environmental challenges still persist. By renewing the commitments to sustainable development contained in "Agenda 21", the "Rio + 20" Conference provides a sound basis for policy making at the national and international levels and for ensuring the social, economic and environmental welfare of our Peoples. To this end, we reiterate that it is essential to take appropriate measures to strengthen international support for actions towards sustainable development, as well as to increase the financial resources of the UN budget through contributions that will enable our organization to fulfill its mandate efficiently, as well as make sustainable development a reality.

Mr. President,

On another topic, the embargo against Cuba violates the rules of international law and has been for decades a major impediment to the development of that country and to the improvement of the living conditions of the Cuban people. Angola reiterates its position of principle that there should be an end to the embargo, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Angola reiterates its belief in mutual respect and mutual benefits, good neighborliness and strengthening of regional economic integration. Angola will continue to respect all international commitments and treaties to which it is a party. Angola respects and implements the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the African Union, and establishes relations based on the principles of self-determination, the peaceful settlement of disputes and respect for human rights.

Angola is currently experiencing a period of consolidation of its democratic institution and rule of law. Also, there has been a dynamic process of reconstruction and development, marked by the consolidation of macroeconomic stability through the implementation of a national policy and a strategy for the promotion of economic diversification, contained in the economic and social development plan for the period 2013-2017.

By accepting to join the program of eligible countries to graduate from the Least Developed Country category (LDC), Angola reaffirms its priority to implement a program of diversification of its domestic production, aiming for a balanced growth in various sectors, as well as expanding employment opportunities and decreasing its dependence on imports of consumer products and its high dependence on oil sector exports.

Despite the progress made in the last decade and the fact that the Angolan economy is on the right path, much remains to be done in order to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals. Aware of this challenge, the Government continues to develop programs aimed at reducing the existing social inequality, while keeping the fight against hunger and poverty as two crucial elements for building a prosperous society and attaining social justice.

Rehabilitating and upgrading the main productive and social infrastructures, including the reconstruction of roads, railways, electricity and water supply and distribution systems, and sanitation and telecommunications networks continue to be a challenge for the Government in its quest to raise the wellbeing of the population and attain sustainable development in Angola.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by referring to an issue of particular importance for the Government of my country: The Republic of Angola is a candidate to non-permanent member of the Security Council, with elections to be held during the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. We hope to count on the support of all the States that make up this Noble Assembly.

I will finish by expressing my country's unconditional support to the initiatives of the United Nations aimed at building a better world for all, based on justice and freedom, free from all threats that endanger international peace and security.

Thank you for your attention!