



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY *JOÃO LOURENÇO*
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
AT THE 76TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, September 23, 2021

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Statement by His Excellency *João Lourenço*,
President of the Republic of Angola, at the 76th
Session of the United Nations General
Assembly

New York, September 23, 2021

Your Excellency,

Mr. Abdulah Shahid

President of the 76th Session of the United
Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and
Government

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ladies and Gentlemen

The fact that I can be on this podium to congratulate in person on your election is a sign of progress in how we are dealing with the COVID-19 virus.

We have not yet won the battle against the SARS-COV-2 virus but must note that we are overcoming the fears, uncertainties, and the feeling of powerlessness of a year ago, and gradually returning to normal life, with all the necessary precautions and a sense of responsibility that is required from all of us.

The fight against COVID-19 and its new and frightening variants goes on, and only our combined efforts, without distinctions between rich and poor or based on other types of social

categories, is the only way forward for us to fight this pandemic with outcomes that meet our populations' expectations of a full return to normal life.

We have seen an increased global conviction that the possibility of achieving this goal is real, as vaccines are developed and introduced by the international scientific community with admirable and commendable speed, with the larger purpose of preserving the human species, which is threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is therefore urgent that we establish, in practical terms, a general understanding that solidarity and streamlined procedures to access vaccines are the only way to lead the world to victory in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, with the broadest possible immunization of the inhabitants of our planet.

It is shocking to see the disparity between some nations and others with respect to availability of vaccines. These disparities allow for third doses to be given, in some cases, while, in other cases, as in Africa, the vast majority of the population has not even received the first dose.

The United Nations must discuss and adopt decisions that are favorable toward the release of vaccine production patents, so they may be produced for an ever larger number of countries, making them more accessible to all.

The pandemic that we face is global and thus accentuated the link and interdependence among Nations. For this reason, the COVID-19 vaccine must be recognized as a good for all humanity, with universal and open access to allow for wider production and equitable distribution on a global scale.

Excellencies,

All negative effects and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in other places also had a strong impact on the economic and social life in the Republic of Angola.

Nonetheless, we were able to act quickly, aggressively, and decisively to contain the spread of the contamination on a scale that allowed us to keep the levels of contagion within the limits of our health structures' response capacity.

Yet, an assessment of losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic to our national economy provides us with distressing results, for which we are now seeking solutions to help mitigate them and relieve the suffering of our population.

We have relied on the support and efforts that merit our full appreciation, as they provide us with some measure of relief in terms of our financial responsibilities toward our creditors. This allows us to have some capacity to tend to our enormous and multiple needs.

In this context of significant degradation in the living conditions of our population and our economic and social fabric, we must engage in deep reflection to find long-lasting solutions that may serve as the basis for rebuilding our economies that have suffered the most severe impacts from this worldwide health crisis.

Excellencies,

The Republic of Angola has made major efforts to contribute to peace and stability in Central Africa, in the Great Lakes Region and other parts of our continent.

Our sensitivity with respect to issues of peace and war is the result of our long internal conflict that lasted for several decades, which gives us a clear perspective on the importance of seeking solutions for disputes through dialogue and understanding between conflicting parties.

We have sought to share our successful Angolan experience with other nations, with the conviction that our action, if well understood, will surely lead to favorable outcomes in ending conflicts and reestablishing peace in some of the affected countries.

There still remain several conflicts in different regions of our planet. There seems to be no end in sight for some of them, due not only to the complex nature of their causes but, above all, due to noncompliance with the norms that govern international relations and with the principles of peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations.

We must continue to believe in the mechanisms that are available to United Nations to build a framework of multilateralism, solutions that ensure solid and long-lasting world peace and security.

We are particularly concerned with the changes in institutional order that are occurring frequently through the use of military force in African countries, as these unconstitutional acts have not spurred an appropriate and sufficient reaction from the international community in order to discourage such acts, which are reprehensible in every aspect, as we have seen in Mali and, more recently, in Guinea.

Therefore, we consider it necessary that the international community act with resolve, and does not simply issue statements of condemnation, in order to force these actors to

return power to the legitimately established institutions.

We cannot continue to allow recent examples, such as that of Guinea and others, to succeed in Africa and other continents. This is a great opportunity for the Heads of State and Government gathered here to demand, with a single voice, the immediate and unconditional release of the President of the Republic of Guinea, Professor Alpha Condé.

We are concerned with the threats to world peace and security from the actions of extremist groups in the African Sahel, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Mozambique, and in other parts of our world, which require the continuous mobilization of the international community to strengthen our capacity to respond to these dangerous activities against social and economic stability in those countries.

Unfortunately, we have been seeing a return to the use of mercenaries, with the recruitment, from anywhere in the world, of professionals without armies, paid to kill, to destabilize countries, to oust democratically elected but troublesome politicians and regimes. This phenomenon used to be strongly condemned and fought but, unfortunately, it is now encouraged and fed by powerful forces hiding behind anonymity.

The United Nations, the African Union, and, generally, the International Community, must encourage the Ethiopian authorities to find better ways to put an end to the conflict in the Tigray region, and counter the threat of a humanitarian catastrophe before it becomes more serious and too late.

Climate change is in today's agenda, judging from the grave consequences that humanity is facing in all continents.

The frequency and ferocity of hurricanes, floods, forest fires, landslides, volcano eruptions, and earthquakes that devastate entire cities and population centers in rural areas, sometimes with a significant number of deaths, should draw everyone's attention, from governments, non-governmental organizations, the academy, scientists, civil society, to the need for concerted efforts to protect planet Earth, our common home, which has been giving us increasingly clear signals that she is not happy with how we treat her, and is defending herself in the most violent manner possible.

Thank you very much for your attention.