



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

MR. JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE 73RD SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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AT THE 73RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, September 26, 2018

- Your Excellency Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President of the United Nations General Assembly.
- Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- Your Majesties,
- Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
- Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations and Bodies,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are holding this 73rd General Assembly at a special moment, as we pay tribute to two great figures of world politics who happen to be two Africans—Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan.

On the day that I complete exactly one year since my inauguration to the post of President of the Republic of Angola, on behalf of the Angolan people, I have the honor to address this tribune for the first time, with the whole international community represented here by its highest dignitaries.

I would like to salute Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government present here and also the leaders from various international organizations and bodies, because I consider you to be the direct laborers for the future of our planet.

I would like to seize this sovereign opportunity to thank all of the international community for the support rendered to the cause of peace and national reconciliation in my country.

A special thank goes to the United Nations Organization itself whose role was decisive for the achievement of long-lasting peace in Angola through the UNAVEM and MONUA Peace

Missions, and the important work undertaken by its specialized agencies, namely UNICEF and the WFP (World Food Program).

We also believe that Angola's experience in peacebuilding and reconciliation between the warring forces has been a positive example for the United Nations, in the sense that it has allowed to draw useful conclusions on how to approach peace processes in other regions of the world.

Angola has a unique experience in terms of how to preserve and maintain long-lasting peace and constant deepening of national reconciliation, social inclusion, mutual forgiveness and healing of wounds from an armed conflict which ended 16 years ago.

Your Majesties, Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is at this broad forum where we find ourselves that best solutions to the current, serious problems and conflicts that may hinder the survival of humanity itself are discussed and resolved.

I am referring to hunger and misery, which affect millions of citizens in the world, global warming and its consequences, mass migrations, trafficking in narcotics, trafficking in human beings, children and women for forced prostitution, religious intolerance and extremism, inter-ethnic armed conflicts, or even the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Established 73 years ago with the declared intention of restoring universal peace and harmony, to provide equal rights to big and small nations and to establish a world of cooperation, progress and well-being, the United Nations Organization is still far from achieving the goals enshrined in its Charter.

While it is true that right after its establishment, the immediate bipolarization of the planet into two antagonistic political and economic systems did not contribute to the easy enforcement of principles that work in favor of peace and international security, it would be unfair to deny that the UN has played an important role in bringing colonialism to an end, promoting Human

Rights, boosting international development and cooperation, and management and control of the hotspots of instability worldwide.

Despite the progress made so far, we need to acknowledge the old prevailing conflicts yet to be solved, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict in the Middle East, the resolution of which will only be achieved through a solution based on two-States living side by side peacefully, as advocated by the United Nations and the overwhelming majority of its Member States.

We welcome the endeavors that have been made by the United States of America, North Korea and South Korea, with the contribution of the People's Republic of China towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which has considerably eased the existing tensions that threatened to trigger a nuclear conflict that would likely be dangerous not only to that region but to international security in general.

With the end of the so-called Cold War, symbolized by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the momentary emergence of a new political paradigm oriented toward multilateralism, the United Nations volunteered to retake its action guided towards building a peaceful world order. We do believe that with hard work from all of us we will be able to achieve such a goal.

Today, in a time of ever-increasing globalization, there is no justification for the continued proliferation of conflicts apparently without a solution, of various dimensions in several parts of the world, and that entire populations continue suffering from their tragic consequences, virtually abandoned to their fate.

Therefore, there have been many voices demanding profound reforms inside the United Nations Organization, which is abreast of the new realities, whereby the emergence of new centers of economic and financial power, and technological and scientific advancements do fully justify the redefinition of its structures and intervention mechanisms as well as the enlargement and reform of its Security Council in order to better represent the different geo-political regions of the planet.

Your Majesties, Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The political setup of the contemporary world, where local, regional and intra-state conflicts represent international tensions and threats to peace, demands that the United Nations Organizations play an increasingly-active role in promoting and monitoring political, social and economic democracy building processes.

This is the optimal avenue for a solution to the internal, ethnic, religious and inter-state conflicts arising in most cases from authoritarianism, exclusion, intolerance, radicalism, or interference in internal affairs of sovereign States.

The current proportions of international terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal immigration, xenophobia, human trafficking and drug trafficking and other evils affect the quality of life of the inhabitants of the planet and demand coordination at the highest level by all Member States of our Organization.

This 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly is being held under the theme "*Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies*". Therefore, the UN should give priority to the promotion and safeguard of human needs, and strive to solve Humanity's global problems such as those pertaining to security, the environment, economic inequalities and development in order to ensure that global peace is preserved.

Our plea is that we should adopt a decentralized scheme for the global financial system, based both on promotion of trade and regional economic integration systems, and the enhancement of regional financial institutions in such terms that allow for more sustainable economic development.

Your Majesties,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Throughout our history as an independent country, our collaboration with the UN has always been permanent in that it has allowed us today to be engaged not only in the re-launch of our economy, but also in the search for solutions for effective peace, democracy building and development in Southern and Central African regions.

The Republic of Angola hereby expresses its willingness to continue supporting all efforts to promote cooperation among the nations of the whole world, consolidate peace and defense for cooperation, trade and investment relations at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Thank you very much for your attention.