



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MR. MANUEL DOMINGOS VICENTE
VICE-PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE 70th SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellencies Presidents and Heads of Government,

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mogens Lykketoft for having been elected to the presidency of this 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I also congratulate His Excellency Sam Kutesa, President of the 69th session, for the capable manner in which he led the work of the previous session, as well as the UN Secretary-General for his continued commitment to finding solutions to the complex issues that trouble the international community.

Mr. President,

At the time of the San Francisco Conference, the idea was to build a world based on international law and in the search for peaceful solutions to international disputes. After seventy years, we note progress as well as setbacks: decolonization made remarkable progress, and that is reflected in the number of countries that now constitute the United Nations family. However, there was no success with regard to collective security, an issue that led to the creation of the United Nations and remains at the heart of its concerns.

We need a joint reflection on the role and future of the United Nations. We need an organization capable of promoting peace and international security, of acting quickly and effectively in conflict situations, and capable of addressing current and emerging challenges.

Mr. President,

By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Member States reiterate as absolute priorities the eradication of poverty and hunger, the promotion of social and economic development, the protection of rights for all, as well as gender equality, women's empowerment, the environment, access to quality services, and special attention to vulnerable groups.

The 2030 Agenda reasserts the precept of the Rio+20 Conference, that it is possible to promote global sustainable development and establish universal goals that highlight the need for cooperation among peoples and a common path for humanity. It calls for a global partnership and for commitments from all parties to mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change with the eradication of poverty and misery, and the creation of opportunities for all.

I reiterate Angola's commitment to taking appropriate measures to strengthen this organization's development agenda.

In the near future, the United Nations will also be involved in the review of three very important processes: Women, Peace and Security, Peacekeeping Operations, and the Peacebuilding

Architecture.

Distinguished Delegates,

As I stated before, the ideal that guided the creation of the United Nations, 70 years ago, to save future generations from the scourge of war, remains to be materialized. People around the world expect the leaders of the 193 nations represented here to join in a collective effort to find appropriate solutions to the serious and multiple challenges that the world population faces.

As we commemorate this anniversary, we bear in mind the role and responsibilities of the United Nations as the paramount forum to find solutions to international problems, to preserve peace, to strengthen collective security and help to renounce the use of force in international relations, while respecting the sovereignty of States, the defense and promotion of Human Rights and the reaffirmation of the rule of law as fundamental principles of the international system.

This occasion should provide an additional incentive to accelerate reforms aimed at revitalizing the United Nations system, particularly the Security Council, by extending the number of its permanent and non-permanent members, thus making this body more representative and better equipped to address the challenges and opportunities that the World faces. Angola reaffirms the right of the African continent to be represented among the permanent members of the Security Council.

The forced displacement of thousands of human beings represents a heartbreaking reality of human degradation and offenses against human dignity, and it requires an immediate and comprehensive response by the international community.

Mr. President,

In this coming month of November, Angola will celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of its National Independence in an environment of peace, tolerance and reconciliation—a direct result of the will of the Angolan people to work together to achieve higher levels of economic growth and greater social inclusion, progress and well-being for all, in a more democratic, prosperous and modern country.

The Government of Angola, despite the adverse global environment, remains committed to sustained growth. To that end, it is implementing its National Development Plan, which aims to rehabilitate and modernize economic and social infrastructure, promote public and private investment, and increase the training, qualifications and proper management of human resources.

Distinguished delegates,

The rise in terrorist activities perpetrated by extremist groups in Africa and elsewhere in the world is a serious security problem, and one that calls for a global coalition to combat this scourge.

The creation of the Task Force of the Lake Chad Basin Countries and Benin is an example of the sort of collective response that deserves the necessary support of the international community in order to purge the African continent of the terrorism that has caused such enormous suffering to the people affected by it.

The situation in the Central African Republic remains a challenge from the point of view of political and socio-economic stability, and internal security. Angola supports the efforts of the transitional government to restore public order and restructure State institutions, and encourages all parties to respect the commitments made in the Bangui Forum as a fundamental prerequisite for the attainment of an inclusive, peaceful, and transparent electoral process.

We welcome the recent compromise reached between the South Sudan Government and the armed opposition, mediated by IGAD and other international partners, to resolve the crisis plaguing the country. We encourage the parties to the Agreement to honor their commitments, and the international community to maintain its support for the peace process.

In Guinea-Bissau, with the institutional crisis now overcome, recent political developments foretell economic growth and political and social stabilization. We appeal to all Guinean political and social actors to display the utmost sense of responsibility, and the international community to continue to support the promises made at the Brussels Donors' Conference.

The question of Western Sahara continues to concern us, considering the need for the Saraoui people to exercise their right to self-determination. We call on the parties to continue negotiations and find a mutually acceptable solution within the framework of the United Nations Charter, and relevant Security Council resolutions.

We are concerned with the "*business as usual*" mindset that prevails in the process of finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We advocate the resumption of negotiations leading to a peaceful and lasting solution, based on two States living side by side in peace and security.

The conflicts in Libya, Syria and Iraq require fast responses, given the serious humanitarian consequences resulting from them. The causes of these conflicts lie in serious violations of the fundamental rights of the people of these countries, and also in external interference that has proved disastrous, with attempts or changes of regime, and the artificial imposition of democracy from outside, which have all resulted in tragic consequences.

Angola warmly welcomes the agreement concluded between the six powers and the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Iranian nuclear program. Such development is evidence that any dispute, however difficult and complex, may have political solutions. This is particularly notable in the case of a region where diplomacy has, in recent decades, been systematically passed over.

Angola follows very closely and welcomes the normalization of the diplomatic relations between the USA and Cuba. However, Angola reiterates the requisite to end the economic, financial and commercial embargo against Cuba, which limits the right of the Cuban people to development, and is contrary to the principles and rules of international law.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,**

The Republic of Angola currently holds the presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and has been engaged in seeking solutions to the problems affecting the region, both bilaterally and multilaterally, as well as in the UN Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. In this context, we reiterate our determination to continue to support and promote

dialogue, peace, security and stability in Central Africa and throughout the Great Lakes region.

Aware of its responsibilities in an international context that is becoming increasingly fluid and complex, and aware of the security challenges that the States bordering the Gulf of Guinea face, the Angolan Government, with the support of the United States of America (USA) and Italy, will host an International Conference on Maritime and Energy Security in the coming days in Luanda, in order to contribute to a response to threats of terrorism and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

Mr. President,

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. For this reason, adopting a protocol that will govern the Global Action to protect the Climate System during the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is of the highest importance. This agreement should include a commitment to limit the increase in average global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Likewise, the new agreement must include models of sharing enabling tools to protect the right to development and to strengthen resilience in developing countries.

Mr. President,

Finally, I wish to reaffirm the importance that my country places on the role of multilateralism in solving global problems, according to a logic of shared responsibilities and benefits, in recognition of the legitimate interests of all, and in concertation for realistic and bold solutions.

We call on all Member States to renew their confidence in the United Nations ability to strengthen international dialogue as a key element of the culture of peace, of respect for differences between peoples and of conflict prevention, which are the very foundations of the progress and development to which all the peoples of the world are entitled.

Thank you for your attention.