



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

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR ISMAEL A. GASPARD MARTINS
CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE PEACEBUILDING
COMMISSION**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

NEW YORK, 23 JUNE 2006

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. President of the Security Council,
Mr. President of the Economic and Social Council,
Mr. Secretary General,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am humbled by the election of my country, Angola, to be the first Chair of this historic Peacebuilding Commission, and by the opportunity to address this august Assembly. It is truly an honor to take the floor on behalf of the members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I would like to thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in my country, Angola and me personally to serve the noble cause of post conflict peacebuilding with a view to breaking the cycle of conflict that affects the lives of millions of people in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in other parts of the world where conflicts have occurred.

As a Representative of a country, which is in the process of overcoming the negative consequences of many years of conflict and from a continent with the largest number of countries in post conflict situation, this choice is to me a symbolic recognition of the purposes for which our leaders decided to establish the Peacebuilding Commission.

Excellencies,

On the occasion of the adoption of the resolution on the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Commission, the President of the General Assembly rightly pointed out that the word historic, is often over-used, but in the case of this Advisory body, he had no doubt that it was merited. We share your assessment, Mr. President, and pledge to do all we can to seize this unique opportunity.

Today, we are witnesses to another historic moment: a turning point in the manner in which each of us and our Organization deals with post conflict situations. We have been afforded a unique opportunity to meet the

expectations of millions of people who have been affected by cycles of conflict.

I am particularly pleased to note that the negotiations which led to this historic moment, although at times difficult, permitted us to lay down the basis of our work through the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council, of resolutions A/60/180 and 1645 (2005), respectively. Those efforts made possible the holding of this inaugural session in conformity with the mandate given to the Secretary-General, whom I commend for his untiring commitment to the noble cause of our organization.

I wish to express to you, Mr. President, our appreciation for your leadership in the conduct of this process and commend all the Member States for the spirit of cooperation so far demonstrated.

I am grateful to the members of the Organizational Committee whose commitment has contributed to the significant progress achieved lastly by working out, even before this inaugural session, some organizational aspects such as the provisional rules of procedure and as well as the selection of the two countries that will constitute country specific deliberations.

The timely deliberations by the Security Council regarding the countries to be included in the agenda has paved the way for the decision by the Organizational Committee on this matter. I sincerely hope that we will adopt both during the course of this inaugural session.

The Organizational Committee I have the honor to Chair will also hopefully today elect two Vice-Chairs. In the future, depending on the level of progress as we continue to address post-conflict situations, the Peacebuilding Commission may decide to elect further Vice-Chairs. We are all committed to meet the level of confidence placed in us with the assistance of the Support Office of the Peacebuilding Commission led by Ambassador Carolyn McAskie. No amount of efforts on our part will yield any significant results unless adequate resources are made available for the proper functioning of this important body.

My colleagues of the Organizational Committee and myself are fully dedicated to work closely with all Member States to whom we shall report

annually through the General Assembly, as well as with all relevant actors that will be involved in the different configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission. It is also our conviction that we will enormously benefit from the diversity and representation of a membership elected or selected by different main bodies of the United Nations.

Excellencies,

It is well established that while many parts of the United Nations have been involved in Peacebuilding, the system has lacked a dedicated entity to oversee the process as well as to ensure its coherence over the long haul to sustainable peace and sustainable development; Albeit an advisory body, the Peacebuilding Commission is uniquely placed to fulfill that role, by enabling the partnership and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, in particular within the United Nations system. The new body is unique in the sense that it brings together membership drawn from the three principal organs of the United Nations, major financial donors and troop contributing countries, international financial institutions and other relevant actors engaged in peacebuilding. Equally important, is the full participation of concerned countries, an innovation aimed at ensuring national ownership.

The countries concerned are an important partner to the Peacebuilding Commission. They bear the ultimate responsibility for creating the enabling environment in which the Commission's recommendations will be implemented. Such an environment can only be attained through political will at all levels and an untamable desire for peace. The full involvement of women and youth is pivotal to build the necessary political will and for the success of the peacebuilding.

I am mindful of the fact that the magnitude of the problems in peace building are such that no single institution can address this challenge on its own. In this connection, I am particularly pleased by the presence among us of the distinguished representatives of the regional and other international organizations, of the international and regional financial institutions, of the Funds and Programmes as well as of the civil society and the private sector. Your presence is also recognition of the need for a multi-dimensional response to achieve sustainable peace and sustainable development. We look forward to your active participation and the fulfillment of your respective roles, as per your mandates, in this endeavor.

Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Peacebuilding is about liberating people from the conflict trap and laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development. As we embark on this integrated and innovative approach, let us not forget that we will be judged not by the eloquence of our statements, but, by the concrete actions we help set in motion in order to meet the expectations of those trapped in conflict - our "raison d'être". To those, there is a sense of urgency that require our immediate action.

I am pleased that the vision of the Member States of the Organizational Committee is to participate in a results oriented and active entity. We are also committed to flexibility and transparency to achieve consensus recommendations that are neither weak nor unwelcomed, but strong and implementable.

Excellencies,

Financial support is essential for effective peacebuilding; the world leaders did recognize this prerequisite by stating that the main purpose of the Peacebuilding Commission is to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict and peacebuilding and recovery.

Levels of funding need to be sustained and predictable. We therefore, launch a vibrant appeal to the international community to provide financing support to the Peacebuilding Fund. We thank those countries that have already made available voluntary contributions, including from important non-traditional donors. This will serve as an encouragement to others to extend full support and to convert their pledges into contributions.

Finally, let us agree that the real test of our Peacebuilding Commission will be its capacity to lay the foundation for successful post-conflict recovery and sustainable development, particularly in the countries to be put on the agenda. This is a challenge and a moral duty that requires political will and commitment by us all.

I thank you.