



**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT ESTABLISHED BY DECREE N.º50/GMRE/09 OF
AUGUST 24 2009, BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
RELATIONS**

64th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL DEBATE

YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. ALI TREK, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS;

YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS;

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

First of all, let me take this important opportunity to congratulate Mr. Ali Trek for his election to chair this 64th session and to assure you the unconditional support of the Republic of Angola in fulfilling your important mission.

The delegation of Angola is absolutely positive that under Your Excellency's auspicious leadership, this 64th session will reaffirm the importance of the General Assembly in the search for consensual solutions to the burning issues affecting humanity, greatly contributing to create an increasingly safer, freer and fairer world.

I also want to express my delegation's deep appreciation to Your Excellency's predecessor, Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, for the high efficiency and vast expertise with which he conducted the work of the Presidency.

Your Excellency, Mr. President;

It is guided by the most elementary sense of justice that on behalf of the Republic of Angola, I express my deepest appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the excellent way he has managed to consolidate reforms and ensure the fulfillment of the decisions of the

Millennium Summit and other major UN conferences, as well as for the commitment he has consistently shown to placing the needs and development of Africa at the center of the international agenda. I would also like to praise the Secretary General for his timely initiative to convene the High Level Meeting on Climate Change.

Mr. President;

The 64th session of the General Assembly is taking place in a political, social and economic context of enormous complexity.

Ensuring **International Peace and Security, Fighting Poverty, Protecting the Environment, ensuring a better future for generations to come, ensuring the rule of law in international** relations among the agents of the international community, and Promoting and safeguarding **Human Rights**, are clearly some of the major challenges we are confronted with.

Combating Organized Crime and the implementation of the anti-terrorism strategy, are also factors of extreme importance that permanently require attention of the United Nations in calling for more effective measures to be taken and a greater engagement of the international community.

These challenges add to the list of others to which our organization must also devote great attention, especially the lack of decisions on disarmament, the persistence of armed conflicts and the consequences of these conflicts in the lives of people, and finally, the issue on the agenda for all Member States ... The Reform of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Mr. President;

We live in a world increasingly characterized by globalization and substantial economic and social inequality.

Hunger and poverty, aggravated by the fact that they are linked to endemic diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, cause millions of deaths annually in Africa and are devastating an entire generation, dramatically jeopardizing the development and progress of the continent.

It is thus urgent to revert this situation that consumes our people, which puts men and women at the mercy of inducements that inevitably lead to violence and crime, and which, to some extent, are the cause of some of the serious problems currently facing humanity.

Food security thus seems to be one of the main concerns of the African

continent due to its importance to health, productivity, as well as social and political stability, and economic growth.

Angola believes that it is possible to substantially reduce the food security deficit in Africa if the international community congregates around the following fundamental issues:

First, maintaining reserves of food and medicines for emergency aid and people in need;

Second, working to adopt national and regional integrated strategies and programs in agriculture, trade, transports, water, and training that can be implemented with the support and experience of FAO, IFAD and other United Nations specialized Agencies.

The action plans within the framework of regional initiatives are extremely important and may contribute to reduce food shortages and combat diseases. In this context, among other initiatives, I must highlight the NEPAD; the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on employment and the eradication of extreme poverty, adopted in 2004; the Maputo Declaration proposing the allocation of 10% of public expenditures to agriculture and rural development; the Syrte Declaration on agriculture and water; the Abuja Resolution on Food Safety, and the Abuja and Maputo Declarations on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other related diseases.

Mr. President;

The economic and financial crisis, though of exogenous origin, has also been seriously affecting the growth of African economies, among other reasons due to the reduction in asset values, financial assets retained abroad, and mainly due to a marked decrease in the price of raw materials that are exported by countries in the continent.

In this context, rather than finding interim solutions to overcome immediate problems, there should be a review of the entire current economic and financial system and an identification of ways to restructure it so that it serves the interests of all peoples and countries in a global perspective.

In this connection, my Government welcomes the initiatives that although insufficient, have been taken in the context of trade liberalization and supports the idea of reforming the regulatory institutions of the financial and economic world, and also calls for greater fluidity and transparency in the transfer of capital to less developed Countries.

Likewise, Angola welcomes the various multilateral initiatives, emphasizing, in

this regard, the China-Africa cooperation, the Africa-South America Conference, the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development, the Europe-Africa Summit, the India-Africa Forum, the South Korea-Africa Summit, and more recently, the Turkey-Africa Summit. The Angolan Government considers that all these are of fundamental importance for the development of the Least Developed Countries, which include most countries in Africa, and Angola in particular.

Mr. President;

The Secretary General presented an important report to the High-Level Session on the Needs of Africa, and particularly on the implementation of commitments made by partners of the African continent, which took place at the margin of the 63rd session of the General Assembly.

Angola shares the relevant concerns raised by the Secretary General in this report, especially when referring to the importance and urgency of getting out of mere expressions of political will, and moving to concrete actions with a comprehensive and vigorous pursuit of the goals envisaged.

The Secretary General stated conclusive examples:

- a) The reduction of aid levels and commitments;
- b) The cancellation of foreign debt for African countries, which is taking long to be fulfilled;
- c) The negative effects arising from the failure to complete the World Trade Organization round of negotiations, a fact which will result in fewer opportunities for the African continent.

Angola shares all these concerns.

As we infer from all the eloquent statements made by the speakers before me, there are no magic solutions or one-size-fits-all models to enable the least developed countries to find immediate and simple answers to development overnight.

Mr. President;

As Your Excellency is certainly aware, Angola has had a very encouraging economic growth.

The invitation addressed to my country to participate in the G-8 Summit held on July 10th in L'Aquila, Italy, and which greatly honored the Angolan government and people, was undoubtedly a proof of the international community's

recognition that Angola is in the right path for the promotion of sustainable development.

Between 2004 and 2007, the national economy accumulated a growth of 92.4% in real terms. In a horizon of only 4 years, the economy almost doubled the value of its GDP, with an average annual real growth of approximately 17.8%.

In this same period, the country saw a sharp increase in the level of public and private investments, which allowed for the generation of a large number of jobs, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Angola is firmly committed to achieving universal education, as evidenced by the fact that we have tripled the number of students in our education system.

Regarding the GDP / human development ratio, it should be noted that in 2002, the country ranked 38 positions lower than now.

In 2005, as a result of the investments the government channeled to the social sector, Angola's rank has improved by five positions in the United Nations human development index, and the country is committed to making efforts towards attaining the 8 Millennium Development Goals.

In the chapter of sports, Angola has recently won its 10th African Basketball Championship and will hold the African Cup of Nations, also known as CAN, in January next year, having built the necessary infrastructure to accommodate this important event.

These major accomplishments, achieved in such short a time, fill all Angolans with pride and strengthen their confidence in the future. They are only possible to achieve in peace, social harmony, and when individual States themselves take on the primary responsibility for the development, progress and well-being of their populations.

Mr. President;

Despite the progress already achieved in Africa in the fields of good governance and the institutionalization of the Organs of the African Union, as well as growth and economic and social development, we must be aware of the remaining difficulties and the still long way to go.

I am referring to, for example, the burning issue of promoting peace and security, which are essential conditions for the development and promotion of human rights.

In this regard, it is worthwhile adding that the Security Council should continue

to fund UN operations for peace and security in Africa and support the efforts of African States in combating drug trafficking, illicit arms trade, piracy and terrorism.

In addition to that, it seems important to emphasize that the strategy of conflict prevention and resolution, particularly the mandate of peacekeeping missions, cannot be separate from **measures to combat organized and transnational crime and the relationship between the illegal exploitation of natural resources and illegal trade in small arms.**

Moreover, the strategy of conflict prevention and resolution should be complemented by **measures to combat financing of terrorists**, another of the major challenges facing the entire international community.

As a country that has chaired the UN PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION, it is with particular satisfaction that I note the progress made in the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

The inclusion of Guinea-Bissau in the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission is also very important.

In that regard, it is without false modesty that I stress the role played by Angola, not only in the negotiations that led to the holding of free and fair elections in that country, but also in the consolidation of peace and political, economic, and social stability in that Brother Country.

The active participation of Angola in resolving the conflicts that have plagued several countries in different regions of Africa, has explicitly raised the expectations of the international community, and especially of the UN Secretary General and the President of the African Union Commission.

Allow me, Mr. President, to reaffirm my Government's commitment to continuing to work within the African Union and the United Nations to identify lasting solutions for peace and national reconciliation processes.

In this conformity, it is fitting to refer to another aspect of utmost importance and which is a consequence of armed conflict. **This aspect is the humanitarian situation, the maintenance and protection of refugee camps, and the identification of durable solutions for millions of refugees whose rights must be protected and respected.**

Mr. President;

The United Nations is undoubtedly the main center of multilateralism and its credibility should be ever more enhanced by the adoption of functional, resourceful, and practical measures.

Accordingly, the Government of Angola welcomes the new format and functions of the Economic and Social Council, especially, of course, the Annual Ministerial Review and the Forum for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Within the reforms that have already occurred, a highlight should also be given to the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the Council for Human Rights.

The Government of Angola, despite welcoming the progress in the organic evolution and functioning of the UN system, cannot but note that the UN was created in a time long gone, more than half a century ago, and in a particular moment in the international community's history that we all believe to be unrepeatable.

The world today is substantially different: The industrial, economic, and social development of a large number of countries did narrow the gap between the most developed countries and the Least Developed Countries; communications have evolved, technologies were modernized, transportation is much more sophisticated and Internet surfing occurs at the global scale.

Given this new reality, the Government of Angola believes the structure of the Organization that brings together people from around the world, cannot remain indifferent to these developments and should therefore adapt to the modern world.

Specifically, the government of Angola considers that the fact that the reform of the Security Council, particularly the part related to its composition and democratization of its decision-making mechanism, has not had any development since 2005, is a situation that must be corrected with urgency.

In this context, my Government hopes that the process of ongoing negotiations under the General Assembly will be conclusive.

Furthermore, the Government of Angola emphasizes the effort led by the United Nations to implement the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and disarmament in general, and recognizes that it deserves the utmost attention of all its members.

Angola also believes that the UN should strengthen the supervision over the

implementation of its programme on the illicit trade in small arms and develop initiatives for the universalization of the Ottawa Convention.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies;

At the end of my speech, I would like to avail myself of this golden opportunity to launch an appeal to the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo to Cuba.

It is fair and imperative to abolish the embargo because it violates the principles of international law, particularly articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Charter.

Angola trusts that the UN will not refrain from once again taking a clear and fair position regarding the embargo, which is also consistent with the principles of its Charter.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my conviction that with effort and determination, our Organization will be in a position to correct asymmetries and provide solutions to the problems that still exist in the international community in order to build a world that is fairer, more stable, more secure, and able to provide the current and future generations with a standard of living consistent with human dignity.

Thank you for your attention.