



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

Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Ismael A. Gaspar Martins
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola
to the United Nations**

**at the General Debate
of the First Committee**

71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 10 October 2016

Check against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

May I congratulate you on your election to Chair this Committee and assure you of the Angolan delegation's full support and cooperation.

I take the opportunity to commend Ambassador van Oosterom for his leadership of the Committee in the preceding session.

The Angola delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

In line with the African Group statement our delegation underscores the importance of Resolution 70/47 in calling on all States, particularly nuclear weapons States, to take into consideration the catastrophic consequences of resorting to these weapons of annihilation.

We further emphasize resolution 70/34 as a fundamental element of multilateral disarmament efforts, which provides a specific roadmap towards achieving a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament, aimed at the prohibition of their development, production, possession,

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acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Angolan delegation wishes to underline the relevance and utmost importance of multilateralism in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security, and reiterates its commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the UN Charter and the Non-Aligned Movement.

By aligning ourselves with the Statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, we wish to highlight the call for effective measures on nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we urge the Non-Aligned countries to take tangible steps aimed at renouncing and dismantling these weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, has been at the core of the international community efforts, since the founding of the United Nations, through the establishment of a robust non-proliferation regime as a basic requirement for the achievement of international peace and security, and to prevent the danger of recourse to nuclear weapons.

The fight against nuclear proliferation has been embraced by the international community, with mixed results, it should be recognized, since the regime in place was unable to stop proliferation. A consistent fear persists that more countries may resort to developing, producing or acquiring these weapons in pursuance of national interests, and in violation of international law and given the increased tensions in most regions of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The threat of proliferation of WMD to non-state actors must also be a central element in the discussions on non-proliferation. Currently taking place, is a Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of Resolution 1540, under which Member States are required to reinforce obligations stemming from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, aimed at filling gaps in regulatory and enforcement measures, including terrorism related proliferation activities by non-state actors.

The threat posed to humanity by the existence of nuclear weapons is real and can't be underestimated. Thus, nuclear disarmament and the total

elimination of nuclear weapons, which is the overall objective of the NPT remains one of the key priority of Angola's foreign policy.

The African framework related to nuclear non-proliferation, the Treaty of Pelindaba, assumes prominence by establishing the Africa Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone.

Mr. President,

Angola is strongly concerned with ongoing challenges and conflicts in Africa and elsewhere. Currently, weapons are easily obtainable, cheaply purchased through criminal networks, and largely supplied by States, in dangerous games of influence and power, to non-state armed groups and also to terrorists, spreading destruction, anarchy and chaos: small arms and light weapons, became real weapons of mass destruction in conflicts in Africa, in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Given the massive destructive character of these weapons, we are of the view that the regime impending on the traffic and supply of small arms and light weapons to non-state armed groups should be strengthened and identical restrictive measures applied, as per resolution 1540.

Strengthening border security in Africa is a key factor to curb the traffic of weapons, and to implement other mandates such as the Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

Translating Angola's commitment to the implementation of WMD's non-proliferation regimes, the Angolan government is drafting legislation and adopting operational measures to this end.

Therefore, a National Authority for the Control of Nuclear Weapons and other weapons of mass destruction was established, coordinated by the Ministry of National Defense.

The establishment of the Authority brings Angola in line with its international obligations stemming related to pertinent instruments related to non-proliferation.

Further, Angola ratified the NPT, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and the Conventions on the Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we shall endeavor that our deliberations focus on the need to advance the work of this Committee by enhancing political will through the adherence to principles of transparency, verification and sustainability of international disarmament and security

measures. We believe that this will enrich our debate and ensure the success of the overall work of the Committee.

Lastly, on behalf of my delegation I would like to commend the initiatives by some States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations to promote the non-proliferation of WMD's and conventional weapons. In this connection, we express our support to the initiatives of Nigeria to table draft resolutions on the Africa Nuclear-Weapons Free Zone Treaty, on the UN Regional Centre for Peace and disarmament in Africa and the United Nations fellowship, training and advisory services.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.