



**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 69TH SESSION OF THE
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820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Sam Kutesa, on your election as President of this session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and to assure you of my country's support in fulfilling your mission.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador John William Ashe for the competent manner in which he led the work of the previous session.

We also extend our greetings to His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his commitment to finding solutions to the issues facing the international community.

Mr. President,

The present session of the General Assembly is taking place in an environment that breeds concern due to the aggravation of international tensions, the intensification of conflicts and the deepening of global crises that require effective and sustainable solutions. It is a matter of consensus that the solutions to common challenges are to be found in multilateral negotiations, and take into account the specificities of each country and each people.

The UN has always been and will continue to be the mainstay of Member States' participation in the making of decisions on issues of concern to the international

community by restoring the global values of tolerance and peaceful and harmonious coexistence of countries and peoples, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Mr. President,

Angola would like to once again reiterate the importance that all Member States join efforts to make the UN a strong and effective organization, and one that serves as the basis for a more balanced, fair and inclusive international legal order and global security system, while promoting confidence among States and strengthening the relations of friendship and international cooperation.

Our Organization should pay special attention to the resurgence of armed conflicts and their negative effects on populations, as well as to disarmament, the combat of trafficking in drugs and human beings, transnational organized crime, international terrorism and piracy due to the direct impact these phenomena have on economic development and consequently on improving the living conditions of populations.

Religious fundamentalism in some African countries is taking violent proportions such that it poses a threat to regional security, with serious consequences for peace, stability and development.

Angola strongly condemns the acts committed by terrorist groups and expresses its support for efforts to ensure their full neutralization.

Angola supports efforts to strengthen the UN's crisis management capacity and considers dialogue and negotiation as the best means of resolving conflicts.

We will continue to meet our international obligations, with special emphasis on the African continent and the regional groupings in which we operate, including the SADC, ECCAS, PALOPs, the Gulf of Guinea and the Great Lakes with a view to defining mechanisms and forms of cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union, the CPLP and other international partners.

Angola took over the rotating presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in January 2014, and in that forum, it continues to promote the resolution of conflicts on the African continent with a view to attaining stability, political and institutional development, internal and border security, as well as good governance and human rights.

It is in this context that Angola is engaged in the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the Great Lakes region.

The Ebola epidemic is an issue of great concern. The position of the Security Council, which was to declare the epidemic as a threat to international peace and security, fully reflects the seriousness of the situation, which requires a decisive commitment from the international community to be combated and eradicated.

Mr. President,

We reiterate the need to reform and revitalize the United Nations system, in particular the reform of the Security Council, which should be more in line with the current international context and reflect an equitable geographical representation by increasing its number of permanent members. Angola reiterates the right of the African continent to sit among the permanent members of the Council.

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the lack of progress in finding a lasting solution for it are a major cause of widespread instability in the Middle East, and also the root cause of the resurgence of terrorism in the region.

This situation worries the Government of Angola and we call for political will and flexibility from both parties, and encourage the Secretary-General of the UN and the American Secretary of State to continue their mediation efforts to establish a sovereign and independent Palestinian state, as well as a 'modus vivendis' to ensure that the two states coexist in peace and security within internationally recognized borders.

The impasse in resolving the question of Western Sahara continues to delay the exercise of the right to self-determination of the people of the territory. Angola calls on the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union to find a solution in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and Resolution 1514 (XV) of December 1960.

With regard to the situation in the Ukraine, Angola deplores the loss of human lives caused by instability in the region and calls for dialogue between the parties involved to find a political solution of the conflict.

The situation in Somalia and South Sudan remains a reason for concern. However, there has been some encouraging progress, reason why we urge the authorities in these countries and the international community to continue their efforts towards stabilization.

Angola welcomes the constitutional normalization in some African countries.

We welcome the holding of democratic elections in Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and Egypt and we express our solidarity with the national reconciliation and reconstruction processes, and economic and social development in these countries.

Mr. President,

The Government of Angola expresses its appreciation for the choice of the central theme of this session - "Realizing and implementing a transformative post-2015 agenda." This theme is of great relevance, especially for the Least Developed Countries.

The progress made in some of these countries is far behind the targets of the Millennium Development Goals due to structural issues, and proves to be insufficient to ameliorate the effects of the economic problems that still persist.

With one year until the final assessment of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, our economies continue to suffer the effects of the international economic and financial crisis, which create barriers to economic growth and hinder the implementation of programs to combat poverty and improve the lives of our peoples.

However, we note with satisfaction that Africa has ceased to represent the image of desolation it did at the beginning of the millennium, there being a new reality where African countries boast an average growth of 5 percent per year and improvements in several human development indicators.

We believe that the trend of progress will prevail in the near future and we will do everything to make it so by investing in future generations based on the objectives of NEPAD, the post-2015 Roadmap and the African Agenda for 2063.

Angola is implementing the National Development Plan for 2013-2017, which aims to increase the supply of social services to the population, diversify the economy and consolidate macroeconomic stability, thus laying the foundation for the process of graduation to a Middle Income Country.

Mr. President,

Angola reiterates the need to end the economic and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, which limits the right of the Cuban people to development and is a clear violation of the principles and rules of international law.

Finally, we appreciate the support that Angola has received from numerous countries for its candidature to Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council for the 2015-2016 biennium, with elections taking place during the present session of the General Assembly.

Once elected to this important organ, we will work with partners in the Council to seek solutions to the serious problems facing the international community and make a real contribution to peace and security in the world.

Thank you for your attention!