



REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

MR. ROBERTO DE ALMEIDA

**PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ANGOLA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE 60th
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Excellencies Co-Chairs

Honorable Chiefs of State and Heads of Governments,

Excellencies,

It is for me a great honor to address this august assembly, on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos.

Let me therefore start by congratulating you, ~~the co-chairs~~, and reiterate how pleased we are to see you presiding the high level Summit which takes place under the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

We would also like to congratulate the outgoing chair, whose skills garnered him the appreciation, admiration and recognition which were clearly demonstrated by the very warm greetings he received during the closing session of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

The reports on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration as well as the report "*in larger freedom*" prepared by the Secretary General as an input to this Summit's debates highlight the complexity of the challenges faced by the International Community.

Indeed, the International Community is no longer in a phase of reaffirming commitments; rather, the time has come for it to show sufficient political will to allow it to mobilize the required resources to

fulfill obligations it has committed to in all major United Nations conferences, among which are the Conference on Social Development; the Millennium Conference; the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development; and the Johannesburg Conference on Sustainable Development.

In this context, there is an unquestionable need to correct the anomalies currently affecting international trade in order that it may become a true driver of development; to broaden South-South cooperation; to pardon the debt of poor countries; and to promote science and technology as critical factors influencing the progress of developing countries.

Other essential questions are those regarding the role of education, and its adaptation to the realities and needs of emerging countries; the issues of gender; and the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which is today one of the main threats to the peoples of Africa, and other regions of the world.

Excellencies,

We are in absolute agreement with the analysis and conclusions of the Secretary General's reports. I beg our co-chairs indulgence in allowing me to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Secretary General for his personal commitment, dedication and leadership, as well as for his outstanding contribution to the reaffirmation of the objectives and principles set forth in the United Nations Charter, the sixtieth anniversary of which we very proudly commemorate today.

Honorable Heads of State and Government,

Excellencies.

We welcome the Political Declaration, presented before the Summit, and the Angolan Delegation is very pleased with the agreements achieved on the four main topics of the Development cluster, namely the Millennium Goals, Foreign Debt, Trade, and Development Aid.

Furthermore, we stress the fact that in the final document references have been included to the special needs of Africa.

On the subject of terrorism, the recent adoption of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism demonstrates that it is also possible to reach an agreement when the subject is the fight against terrorism, including as regards its definition.

The Angolan Delegation shares the view that the fight against terrorism requires a worldwide strategy, and for this reason we commend current efforts to conclude an International Convention against Terrorism.

We favor the creation of a Peace Consolidation Committee, the objective of which, as set forth in the Final Document, is to assist Conflict Emerging Countries in their processes of economic conversion, preservation and peace consolidation.

However, based on our own experience, we believe the mandate of the Peace Building Commission would not be complete if it did not include a conflict prevention component.

The Angolan Delegation supports the idea that we must pay attention to the specificities of post-conflict countries face problems of an economic and social nature, the resolution of which has a direct bearing on the preservation and consolidation of peace.

Regretably, it is not always that due attention is given to these aspects, and, since the funds required for reconstruction are also not mobilized in sufficient measure, these countries are unduly penalized. Such is the current situation in Angola, a situation we consider as extremely unfair.

Furthermore, the Angolan Delegation is pleased to notice that there is a broadening of, and hopefully a continuing debate on such sensitive issues as the use of force in international relations; the responsibility to protect; and the Human Rights Council;

Excellencies,

The discussions that have taken place over the last few months have shown that a sentiment is common among your members, which refers to the need to better adapt the United Nations to respond more promptly to the challenges and threats that appear before the International Community. Today, more than ever, the international community needs a United Nations Organization that is strong and efficient.

Excellencies,

When proposing a series of measures designed to strengthen the United Nations, our Secretary General opened an opportunity for its institutional reform. This can only succeed if its agencies are able to fully perform their functions as designated to them in the Charter.

Therefore, we reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly as the main deliberative organization of the United Nations.

Regarding the Security Council, we agree that it should be more representative, efficient and transparent. The International Community, on behalf of which the Security Council makes its

decisions based on the UN Charter, must feel it is an integral party to the decision making mechanism.

Finally, Angola is very pleased with the fact that a call has been made in the final document to emphasize the importance of cooperation among regional and sub-regional organizations.

Excellencies,

Another type of problem which must be of concern to the international community is the illicit exploitation of natural resources, something which constitutes a threat to both peace and security; prevents the development of affected countries, and contributes to massive violation of human rights.

In this regard, the Angolan Delegation does underline the importance for the international Community to respect the International Humanitarian Law, specially, those regarding the protection of civilians in conflict situation. In my Delegation's view, the prevailing lack of respect for humanitarian law deserves a particular and urgent attention from the United Nations.

Your Excellencies,

Honorable Heads of State and Government,

In Angola, we have been trying to implement the Millennium's Development Objectives and Goals, and we continue to make every effort to consolidate peace and promote national reconciliation, in order for our country to be internally stable, both in economic and social terms.

At the same time, we are committed to bringing political activities back to normal, and to insure that democratic institutions are fully operational. Preparations are in an advanced stage to guarantee we have general elections in 2006.

Let me conclude, Your Excellencies, by underlining that never before mankind's destiny has been so interconnected as in our times. It is necessary that we have a collective response and a unity of action that safeguards the interests of not just a few, but of all of us. For this purpose, the preservation of the central role of the United Nations in international relations is of the utmost importance.

When its mandate, its universal character, and the number of its organizations and entities are taken into consideration, the United Nations is well positioned to consider the issues the world faces in the twenty-first century.

The nature and complexity of these issues shall evolve with time, but their main characteristic is that its effects shall not respect any borders.

For this reason, only though far-sighted and wide-ranging actions can the international community provide the positive answers that humankind expects and deserves.

I conclude by hoping that the final document to be adopted by this Summit represents a major contribution to the Millennium targets and goals, peace, collective security, sustainable development, and promoting Human Rights.

I thank you.