



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA,
AT THE PRESENTATION OF NEW YEAR GREETINGS
BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Luanda, January 10th 2008

**YOUR EXCELLENCY DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC BODY,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS AND CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRS,
HONORABLE GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I thank your presence and company in this ceremony that marks the beginning of the New Year.

It is with much pleasure that I will exchange views with You on the most relevant events of the year that just ended and on the near future.

I believe that we can consider the year of 2007 a positive one in spite of the preoccupying situations that reign in several areas of the world.

These situations are provoked by negative factors that deserve our attention and intervention in order to halt their prevalence, so that we can build a better and safer world for all.

Terrorist acts, and the great instability they cause in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and in other places; power disputes in certain areas of Africa; the disastrous consequences of global warming in several countries, caused by the pollution of the atmosphere by highly industrialized countries; endemic and pandemic diseases that devastate less developed countries and the hunger and poverty that affect many people due to the unbalanced trade relationships between rich and poor countries, are issues that should be inserted in the agenda of all diplomats and political leaders of the Civil Society, as many of them are serious enough to constitute an imminent threat to world peace and international security.

We noted with pleasure that the resolution of conflicts in Africa is at the center of the attentions of both the African Union and the United Nations, who are uniting their efforts to eradicate them.

Even where the most arduous difficulties are verified, such as in Sudan, in Somalia and in the East of the DRC, we have the conviction that positive developments can occur, provided the International Community exerts appropriate pressure and if all the intervening parties establish fair political agreements and respect them.

It is particularly urgent that the African Union and the International Community act in Kenya in order to avoid a dangerous degradation of the situation, to restore the order, combat fraud and defend the democratic system.

Through constructive dialogue and through unified measures, it is possible to have into account the legitimate concerns and interests of all parties involved and to find fair and durable solutions.

Therefore, the Republic of Angola reiterates its support to the United Nations peace operations in general, and to the African Union peace operations in our continent. Angola will continue to adhere to, and be in favor of, the initiatives and actions of the International Community that seek the restoration and maintenance of peace and stability in Africa and in the world in general, as well as the promotion of understanding and cooperation among the Nations.

In this context, it is worthwhile to highlight the realization of the European Union and Africa Summit in the Portuguese capital in 2007, which was an important event because it allowed to the two areas to re-establish dialogue with a view to finding fair solutions for problems of common interest.

We wish that the partnerships formed in this Conference are materialized and are based in the principles of mutual respect, equality and reciprocity of advantages.

The recent stabilization of the Angolan foreign debt by the Paris Club can be placed in the context of strengthening economic ties with European countries, allowing the reopening of financing lines for Angolan imports by important European banks without oil as collateral, and increasing the flow of capital for the promotion of a fast growth of the national economy.

The reality of globalization, however, naturally drives us to the need to diversify international relations and to accept the principle of competition, which has substituted in a dynamic manner the petrified concept of influence zones that once characterized the world.

We are thus open to cooperation with more industrialized countries; with the so-called emerging economies such as Brazil, China and India; with African countries and with other countries.

Diversification confers more democracy to international relations and it should, obviously, be encouraged.

The Angolan Government, in similarity with the Governments of other African countries, wishes to continue to guide the destiny of its people, not allowing its territory to be the ground for new disputes of foreign interests, that bring tensions and that put in danger its legitimate aspirations for peace, stability and sustained development.

Angola does not intend to exclude anybody and wants to cooperate with all, establishing balanced partnerships that are advantageous to all parties.

I reiterate to all in attendance my wishes of happiness and prosperity in this year of 2008, and I ask that you transmit to Your respective countries my wishes of peace, stability and progress.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!