

Angola elected president of the Peacebuilding Commission



New York, 06/23 - Angolan ambassador to UN, Ismael Gaspar Martins, was elected by acclamation for a one-year term as president of the Peacebuilding Commission, a UN newly created organ tasked with ensuring post-conflict peace.

The election of the Angolan diplomat took place Friday in New York, during the first session of the commission, attended by the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, and the presidents of the General Assembly of the Security, the Economic and Social Councils, Jan Eliasson, Per Stig Moller and Ali Hachani, respectively.

Addressing the session, the Commission's newly elected president said the fact "represents the recognition that the countries that have concrete post-conflict problems must be directly associated with the search for solutions and the ways to lead United Nations actions toward solutions to the problems.

"We have just been given a unique opportunity to respond to the expectations of millions of people affected by conflicts," Ismael Martins stressed. According to him, financial support is crucial for the commission to be effective, and appealed to international and regional financial institutions, funds and programmes, civil society and the private sector to support for the newly created organ.

Ismael Martins said that members should not be judged by the eloquence of their speeches, but by concrete actions helping the good functioning of the institution. "There must be a sense of urgency that enables concrete responses of aid to countries emerging from conflicts," he stressed. He also argued that peacebuilding has to do with liberating people from conflicts and creating basis for peace and sustainable development.

To this end, he added, "there should be flexibility and transparency in our deliberations in order for our consensual recommendations to be actually implementable."

"Being a representative of a country that is in the process of overcoming the negative effects of many years of war, and of the continent with the largest number of conflicts, the creation of this organ is the symbolic recognition of the purposes that led our leaders into deciding the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission," the Angolan diplomat stated.

The commission is an organ whose establishment was decided by the Heads of State and Government, during the UN Summit of September 2005 and under the A/RES/60/180 and 1645 (2005) Resolutions, of the General Assembly and of the UN Security Council, concerning the need for the creation of such first inter-governmental advisory organ that will be mainly tasked with marshalling financial resources from the International Community.

The purpose of the financial resources is to outline integrated strategy of economic recovery in the post-conflict period, national reconstruction and sustainable development in countries emerging from conflicts. The commission is coordinated by a committee comprising 31 members, elected as follows: Angola, Guinea Bissau, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Poland, Brazil and Belgium, for Economic and Social Council. China, Denmark, France, Russia, United Kingdom, Tanzania and US, by the Security Council. Germany, Italy, Japan, Holland, and Norway as UN main contributors.

Other members of the commission are Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Nigeria and Pakistan, Burundi, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji and Jamaica. All UN Security Council Permanent members are part of the Peacebuilding Commission. The creation of the commission is part of the UN reforms proposed by the secretary general, Kofi Annan, in face of the need to make the organisation of more effective concerning nowadays threats and challenges.

Angola currently holds one of the vice presidencies of the General Assembly and is fulfilling its term as Economic and Social Council member.