

Statement by H.E. Ismael Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations at the High –Level Dialogue on the Least Developed Countries, 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

**September 18, 2006 – New York**

**Madam Chair of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies,**

There is no doubt that this High-Level Dialogue constitutes a singular opportunity to assess the implementation of the Brussels Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries. It is a platform for action that engages all States and relevant stakeholders in the improvement of the human condition of approximately 600 million people living in the 50 least developed countries among the membership of the United Nations.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the Statement made this morning by the distinguished Minister of External Affairs of South Africa, Mrs. Zuma, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Madam Chair,**

In May of 2001, the Republic of Angola, participated in the 3rd United Nations Conference for the Less Advanced Countries, which approved the Brussels Program of Action for the decade of 2001-2010. Our objective then, was to formulate policy recommendations that would lead to concrete actions and the enactment of measures to:

- Foster a people centered policy framework;

- good governance;
- Build human, productive and institutional capacities to enable the integration of the LDC's in the International Economic and Trade System;
- Reduce economic vulnerability,
- Protect the environment
- Mobilize the necessary financial resources for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

### **Madam Chair,**

During this same period, the Republic of Angola faced an intense armed conflict, which, as you know, destroyed vital economic and social infrastructure such as highways, bridges, railways, industrial units, schools and hospitals reflected in the poor economic and social indicators for that period.

With the advent of peace, the Government of the Republic of Angola elaborated a Strategy to Combat Poverty and a Program of National Development for the years of 2002-2004, and 2005-2006, whose priority areas of intervention are:

- Social Reintegration;
- Mine Action,
- Rural Development and Food Safety,
- Combat to HIV/AIDS,
- Education,
- Health,
- the Rehabilitation of Infrastructures,
- Job and Professional Training,
- Good Government and Macroeconomic Management

The implementation of the policies and measures contained in these programs of national development allowed for significant improvements in the delivery of social services and initiated the rehabilitation key economic infrastrure. As a result, Angola began the reversal of the negative trend on its economic and social indicators such as the dramatic

reduction in the rate of inflation, a substantial increase in the in per capita GDP, and in the real economic growth rate.

Likewise, there has been an improvement in social indicators. For instance the life expectancy rate went from 30 years in 2000 to 42 in 2005, primary school enrollment went from 42% in 2001 to 91.1% in 2005, infant mortality rates went from 500 per 1 thousand children in 2001 to 260 per 1000 children in 2005; better access by population to drinking water and sanitation, the reduction of the number of people living below the poverty line, and progress in gender equality.

**Madam Chair,**

As other LDC's, the Republic of Angola crosses a critical phase in its path towards sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In spite of the positive results reached in some LDC's, the degree of achievement of the goals and targets contained in the Brussels Program of Action and in the Millennium Declaration makes it clear to us that there is still a long road to travel.

**Madam Chair,**

At last year's World Summit, our leaders reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate poverty. They exhorted all Member States and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, to combine efforts and to rapidly adopt measures to reach the objectives and goals of the Brussels Program of Action.

More recently, in Cotonou, Benin, the Ministers of the LDC's also renewed their commitment to the implementation of the seven commitments of the Brussels Program of Action and to improve the living conditions of their people.

The materialization of these objectives represents the materialization of the collective responsibility expressed in the principles of the United Nations Charter, about equality and human dignity among all. It is paramount that we turn our statements into action because if the current situation

persists, the LDC's will neither reach the Millennium Development Goals nor the objectives of the Brussels Program of Action.

**Madam Chair,**

The Republic of Angola deems it important to recognize the particular circumstances of LDC's emerging from conflict situations and natural catastrophes and calamities in the implementation of the Brussels Program of Action. Moreover, we believe that security and stability are important and essential factors for the accomplishment of the goals and targets of the Brussels Program of Action.

Angola stands for a larger engagement of the international community and of the multilateral financial institutions in the attribution of adequate financial resources, technical assistance, much needed for the development of productive capacities. Additionally, larger efforts must be made for the fulfilment of the commitments regarding the reduction of the debt of Least Developed Countries and their insertion in the international economy.

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate my Government's readiness and renewed determination to contribute, in line with the South-south Cooperation and alongside other LDC's and international partners, for the full implementation of the the Brussels Program of Action.

**Thank you very much**