

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would also like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau for your election and assure you of its full cooperation during this 61st session of the United National General Assembly;

Angola associates itself to the statement made by Lesotho on behalf of SADC member States.

Mr. Chairman,

The next month of November will mark the completion by Angola of 31 years of independence. It is also the moment when our people reiterate its votes of thanks to the contribution of this Committee, whose commitment will be remembered for ever. It is therefore comforting to note that this committee has kept its tradition of ending colonialism which, in our opinion, constitutes an anachronism of our modern times.

My delegation also fully appreciates the efforts of the Special Committee for an immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, while the Administering Powers should continue to cooperate with the Special Committee on the discharge of its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

As I earlier stated, colonialism is an anachronism of our modern times and requires therefore an innovative approach on our part in order to avoid the existing *Status Quo* in many cases as few progress has been made towards the decrease of the number of Non-Self governing territories, while we have reached the midpoint of the Second Decade for the eradication of colonialism.

Self determination is an issue of great value to all the people of our planet and should not therefore be denied to any of us; we have all aspired or fought for it at different stages of the world history; none of us should therefore feel comfortable with the existence of people to whom this right is still being denied.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the African continent, the lack of progress on the question of the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is a matter of concern for my delegation.

When dealing with this issue, we should preserve the credibility of the United Nations, by reaffirming the already agreed principles; We fully appreciate the efforts being made by the secretary General and his Special Envoy in order to overcome the current deadlock.

The search for a way out on this question should however, take into account the Western Sahara people's right to choose their own destiny in conformity with the Security Council resolution 1429(2002) which provides for self determination for the people of Western Sahara.

The Parties should also facilitate the work of the Security Council and the Secretary General by refraining from proposals that may not render difficult a smooth progress and accommodate the right for self determination.

As well as reports on the violation of human rights, my delegation is also concerned by the signs of unrest in the territory of Western Sahara.

Mr. Chairman,

It is obvious that a country like Angola which has good relations with both, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO would like to see progress on this crucial issue, representing a painful page of the history of our continent. We therefore, appeal to a fraternal and principle-based solution to this problem.

I thank you.