

Angola elected to serve on UN Human Rights Council



17 May 2007 – Angola has been elected to serve on the United Nations Human Rights Council with 172 votes after two rounds of balloting among Member States today at UN Headquarters in New York.

Angola and Bolivia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Qatar, Slovenia and South Africa were successful after the first round of voting, while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy were chosen following a second round.

Successful countries which were elected according to a formula that allots seats among regional groups needed to obtain an absolute majority of the General Assembly's membership of 192 States. The second round of balloting was restricted to those States which had scored the most votes in the first round without achieving a majority.

In the African States group, Madagascar (182 votes), South Africa (175) and Egypt (168) exceeded the majority during the first round, while India (185), Indonesia (182), the Philippines (179) and Qatar (170) won the seats allotted to the Asian States group. In the Latin America and the Caribbean States group, where two seats were up for grabs, Nicaragua (174) and Bolivia (169) were elected.

Slovenia, which obtained 168 votes, was the only nation in the Eastern European States category to win a majority in the first round, but in the second round Bosnia and Herzegovina picked up 112 votes. Belarus did not score enough votes in either round.

Two seats were available to the Western European and Other States group, and the Netherlands won 121 votes in the opening round, while Denmark and Italy tied on 114 votes. In the second round, Italy scored 101 votes and Denmark obtained 86.

Some of today's successful countries South Africa, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Netherlands were actually being elected to their second term after winning a

seat during the inaugural elections of the Council last year, when the body was established to replace the discredited Commission on Human Rights.

Speaking to the UN Radio, permanent representative of Angola to the UN Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins said that “this was a way to encourage us to continue to be coherent to what is being done in the protection of Human Rights in Angola and the world. Obviously we have made tremendous efforts, thus this election is an encouragement for us to continue in the same direction.

As part of the Council’s formation, some members won three-year terms and others were given one-year terms and allowed to run for re-election again this year. Under paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 Council, members serve three-year terms and cannot run for re-election after two consecutive terms. Those elected today will serve three-year terms on the 47-member body.