

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AT THE 62<sup>ND</sup>  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 25 SEPTEMBER 2007**



**HONORABLE MR. BAN KI-MOON,  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
HONORABLE MR. SRGJAN KERIM,  
PRESIDENT OF THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

At the outset, I would like to salute the International Community, legitimately represented here today by Your Excellencies.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to personally congratulate Mr. Ban Ki-Moon for his election to the post of Secretary-General of our Organization.

I am confident that your able leadership, steadfastness and commitment will assist us in our search for consensual solutions to the issues that affect Humanity in order to make the world an increasingly safer, freer and fairer place.

Today, the world is confronted with global warming, a consequence of the atmospheric pollution resulting from human activity on Earth, which is causing dramatic and dangerous climate change; the world is also confronted with extremists who resort to terrorism and the use of religion for political ends; with growing militarism as a pretense response to terrorism and with the amassing of capital, information and 'know how', all of which widen the gap between the rich and the poor and generate social tensions around the world.

The model of an open, democratic and tolerant civilization, with a state that serves the interests of all, has shown that the Parties that alternate in Power in the post-Cold War period can coexist and fight for their principles and values through peaceful means.

I believe that the same model can be successful if properly adjusted to the concrete realities of other regions.

At the same time, we must continue to deepen our study and analysis of the threat of terrorism and use peaceful means to seek an ever broader consensus on the collective responses needed to counter it.

Islam can peacefully co-exist in societies with other religious beliefs; however, it is necessary to neutralize fanaticism and prevent the Islamization of the State, which is contrary to humanity's modern legal concept of a secular State.

In our opinion, it is necessary to defend cultural diversity and to render more inclusive and fair the process of political, economic and social development; to support and stimulate all the forces and movements that defend modern life and the separation of State from Religion in countries that are predominantly Islamic, as well as the values and privileges of the Universal Culture that are consecrated in Conventions, Charters, and international Treaties.

This force is immense, it continues to grow, and it can be more effective than military action, which in our understanding, should only constitute a last resort.

Ecumenism and dialogue among cultures are other avenues for action that can be better and more frequently used to bring together the dominant religions and all the people of the world, based on the ideals of peace, solidarity and fraternity.

The fight against poverty and hunger in the world with a Global Plan monitored by the United Nations as an International Convention; higher and fairer remuneration of commodities or natural resources extracted from developing countries and technical support to poor States would contribute greatly to eliminate social inequalities and the social recruiting base and support of those who prefer violence.

In this regard, the globalization of the economy must be regulated in order to mitigate the asymmetries between the center and the periphery of the economic system and to ensure that each person has the necessary means for survival with dignity.

Such regulation should further address environmental matters. There are countries that experienced a fast industrial development without paying due attention to the protection of the environment. Other countries are now in an identical endeavor, thus increasing the production of carbon dioxide and worsening the greenhouse effect.

A new meeting of all world leaders is proving urgent in order to approve and begin the execution of the Global Plan of Environmental Protection.

We support the initiative of the Secretary-General in this sense, aware that the countries that most pollute the atmosphere, such as the case of richest countries, should contribute to its protection with more resources.

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,

Today, the Republic of Angola is in position to engage itself more actively in this collective and solidary fight for Humanity, because the country has been in peace for little more than five years, and moving towards complete normalization of its political, economic and social life.

A living proof of that fact is that Angola has already signed all the international protocols in favor of environmental protection, such as the Kyoto and the Montreal protocols, while contributing to conflict resolution and peace in its region and in the African continent as a whole.

As a country that has recently chaired the Peacebuilding Commission of the United Nations, we are pleased to learn of the important progresses in the consolidation of the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Burundi, in Côte d'Ivoire, in Liberia and in Serra Leone.

However, the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, still prevail, while the issue of Western Sahara's self-determination remains unresolved. I am convinced that the Organization will remain engaged in the search for a solution to these problems in the shortest time possible and that United Nations' forces will be urgently deployed in Darfur.

The Commission of the Gulf of Guinea is currently headquartered in Luanda, where the representatives of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic met recently following an initiative of Angola. Both institutions are vehicles that promote peace, security, stability and multiform cooperation among their members, in consonance with the principles of the UN Charter.

I must highlight the decisive role that regional and sub-regional organizations can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. At the same time, they can alert for the need to strengthen the mandates and the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, without prejudice of post-conflict activities, such as disarmament and resettlement of the populations, among other actions.

Excellencies,

In the particular case of Africa, it is our interest to see fully materialized the Millennium Development Goals, so that the continent, in its entirety, can align itself with the growth rate of the world economy.

The reduction of extreme poverty by 50% until 2015, foreseen by the United Nations, also has to be accompanied by a decisive fight against hunger, disease, HIV/AIDS and other endemic scourges.

The effectiveness of these actions depends, however, on complementary achievements such as fairer trade with developed countries, greater fluidity in the transfer of capital, official development aid and the pardon of foreign debt.

Mr. President,

In recent years, important progress was made in the reform of the United Nations system. It is nevertheless important to continue to move forward in that process, especially regarding the Security Council, with the objective of strengthening the authority and the effectiveness of the Organization and of making it more representative, more democratic and more participatory at the level of international security, development and human rights.

In spite of criticism and of some known failures, the UN remains the only institution at the international level with the prestige and credibility for the resolution of inter-State conflicts and crises that, due to their dimension, escape the control of the authorities of a State or endanger its population.

The UN-led fight against conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and landmines, in addition to the peacekeeping and humanitarian operations of the 'Blue Helmets' in several regions, have contributed to greater world security.

In that sense, it is important to reinforce the monitoring of the application of the Treaty of Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to move towards a global disarmament process and to discourage the new ongoing arms race.

On the other hand, it is also urgent to re-launch the peace process in the Middle-East in a committed and comprehensive manner, for it is still an unstable zone and a source of permanent threat to world peace.

Angola hopes that the United Nations pronounces its view on this matter and stays faithful to the core issue of its Charter, according to which all actions must be the result of a debate and a collective decision, therefore excluding unilateralism.

A recurring theme in the agenda of this meeting is the embargo against Cuba. It is imperative to put a definitive end to this economic, trade and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America, as it violates the principles of International Law and chapters 1 and 2 of the UN Charter.

The challenges that lie ahead of us entail a constructive dialogue among all the countries involved, especially the Heads of State and Government, who will have to overcome eventual divergences and impediments, and will have to find middle ground between the possible and the desirable, and between audacity and realism.

Mr. President,

We believe that through joint actions, as well as through the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the revitalization of the spirit of international solidarity, it is possible to build a better world for all.

A world of peace, based on Justice and the Rule of Law, without weapons of war and without dangerous pollution is safer, and its construction depends solely on the political will of all the Member States of the United Nations, especially the Permanent Members of its Security Council.

Let us all unite our forces for a better world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

\*