

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

AT THE OPEN DEBATE
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROLE
OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MAINTENANCE
OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY

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Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate the Indonesian Presidency for convening this important session and welcome with appreciation the insightful Concept Paper circulated prior to this meeting. Thank you for coming all the way from Jakarta to chair this important meeting this morning.

Your presence honours us and enhances the value of the deliberations of the Council on the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

As rightly referred in the concept paper, I quote: “over the years, there has been a plethora of efforts in promotion of such objectives, including through the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1631” end of quote. We fully share this vision of a situation which now calls for concrete action in order to match with the consensual recognition of the central role of regional and sub-regional organizations as instrumental mechanisms in the collective security system.

Regarding the African continent, the Security Council has held special sessions and adopted several Presidential Statements as well as resolutions, including the holding recently of a summit dedicated to the African continent. The problems and the possible solutions are therefore fully identified. Both the Security Council and the African Union recognize the importance of having an effective system of coordination between the United Nations, the African Union and sub-

regional organizations such as ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, IGAD, CEMAC, ECEAS, UMA and others.

We therefore welcome the steps taken towards the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Decision on the 10-year process of sustained capacity building support within the African Union strategic framework, as well as the reflection underway at the Political Department on how to liaise better with the different regions, including by enhancing the presence of the United Nations on the ground through the regional offices. Cooperation with local bodies, particularly in the field of police training for peacekeeping operations should be stressed. In this connection, we reiterate our call to the donor community to assist the efforts underway on the continent, of which the recently launched initiative by Cameroon of the “Ecole Internationale des Forces de Securite” (EIFORCES) aimed at training police from African countries is a good example.

Mr. President,

Africa has been the ground for useful experiences on peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding, starting from the deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, deployment of multi-

national forces, the bluehelmeting of African regional and sub-regional forces such as in the cases of Burundi and Cote d'Ivoire. All those experiences have had an impact on the action of the United Nations, the reform of its bodies such as the DPKO and the philosophy of the Organization in shaping a new vision of global security.

The Concept Paper calls our attention to the important question of the innovative initiative consisting of a hybrid model being experimented in Africa. While addressing the Fourth Committee, Under-Secretary-General Jean Marie Guehenno recalled the work being developed by his department in establishing the initial operating capabilities of the hybrid African Union-United Nations operations in Darfur. In this connection, the multi-dimensional presence in Chad/Central African Republic -- United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) -- to be deployed by year's end in close concert with the European Union would constitute a welcome development.

It is our hope that those experiences should serve as catalysts of strategic partnerships with regional organizations in order to

maximize its impact and increase the likelihood of successful peace and security outcomes. Important lessons should also be drawn on the need for reducing the timeframe between the decision and the implementation. Those two experiences will be decisive for the use of the model in future circumstances.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding is also a question of great importance for the African continent, taking into account the increasing number of countries in post conflict situation. The experiences underway in Burundi and Sierra Leone point to the direction and need for strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. One of the lessons drawn from the Peacebuilding work in these countries and the presence of peacekeeping operations is the need for the improvement of the United Nations Peacebuilding architecture. The United Nations Peacebuilding architecture should also take into account the efforts of the African Union in the establishment of a peacebuilding regional mechanism.

Mr. President,

By creating the Organization of the African Unity which became “The African Union” and by establishing sub-regional bodies, the African continent recognized very early, the importance of those institutions and has spared no effort to preserve them. Those bodies are therefore pivotal partners for the United Nations. This partnership requires among others, adequate structures at the United Nations Secretariat, a fluid communication channel and the enhancement of the role of the mechanisms established by the Security Council, including the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

Before I conclude, Mr. President, let me reiterate the view that there is clearly value added in a strengthened and coordinated action between the Security Council and regional and sub-regional organizations.

The maintenance of peace and security is clearly better served if this coordination becomes more real and action-oriented. This debate today represents an important contribution towards reaching this urgent goal.

I thank you.

