

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**AMBASSADOR ISMAEL A. GASPAR MARTINS**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN**  
**OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

**AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON THE REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**(A/62/2) [9]; QUESTION OF EQUITABLE**  
**REPRESENTATION ON INCREASE IN THE**  
**MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**AND RELATED MATTERS**

**NEW YORK, 12 NOVEMBER 2007**

Mr. President,

I am particularly honored to address this August Assembly on behalf of the African Group regarding a question of a particular interest for our continent: Security Council Reform. Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting as this matter remains an unfinished business.

I would also like to commend the Indonesian Presidency for the presentation of the report of the Security Council; the African Group also takes note with appreciation the notification by the Secretary General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations concerning matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security included on the agenda of the Council.

Mr. President,

The Security Council report submitted to us devotes an important place to the African Continent since African issues continue to be, as rightly referred in the report, at the forefront of the Council's agenda. Despite the prevalence of conflicts, positive developments are occurring in several African countries in post conflict situations, changing the gloomy picture of the Continent normally portrayed to the world. We are pleased that the Security Council has regularly kept on its agenda the consideration of post conflict situations in these countries.

The African Group particularly welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of a Presidential Statement on its relations with regional organizations in matters of maintenance of international peace and security. Regarding the African Union, the Security Council mission to Addis Ababa, headquarters of the Union, has enabled a very productive exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. Thus, the African Group encourages the two bodies to continue this dialogue in order to increase the likelihood of successful peace and security outcomes.

Mr. President,

While addressing the Security Council last week, on behalf of the African Group in the debate devoted to the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, I did mention that Africa has been the ground for useful experiences on peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding and, consequently, for the work of the Security Council.

However, Africa is also fully aware of one central question involving its relationship with the Council: the continent is not adequately represented in the Security Council. Time has therefore come to redress the historical injustice done to Africa in order to close a chapter that followed two world wars and move forward in the search for collective security by working together in a more inclusive, transparent and democratic manner.

For this reason and in conformity with the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, Africa is asking for not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto in addition to five non permanent seats. It would be the responsibility of the African Union, the selection of Africa's representatives in the Security Council. A question to be given due consideration in accordance with acceptable criteria to be determined collectively at the level of the African Union and the United Nations, respectively. Africa is in principle opposed to the veto but, if maintained, it should be made available to all permanent members of the Security Council as a matter of justice.

The Ezulwini Consensus is an integrated package that contains all those elements together.

Mr. President,

While addressing the General Assembly at the opening of its 62<sup>nd</sup> session, you rightly stated, I quote:” *If we want the United Nations to play its full role, we will have to do more and do it more effectively - both operationally at the country-level, and management at Headquarters. We also need the courage to move to a new stage leading to concrete results on Security Council reform.*” We fully endorse this view and commend you for your foresight and courage.

Mr. President, you can thus count on the support of the African Group. The African Group is committed to strengthening the United Nations, including the Security Council whose deep reform will enable it to be more legitimate, more representative, effective and consequently, be in a better position to perform its primary responsibility provided for by the United Nations Charter.

I thank you, Mr. President.