

**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY
DIAKUMPUNA SITA JOSE
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
AT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

12 February 2008

His Excellency, Mr. Srgjan Kerin President of the General Assembly
His Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations
Distinguished heads of Delegations and Members of Governments
Delegates and invited guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Angola, allow me to express our appreciation to the Secretary General and the United Nations System for the ensemble of activities being carried out on Climate Change and for convening this important debate.

The Republic of Angola aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Cameroon, Bangladesh and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the African Group, the group of Least Developed Countries and the Group of 77 and China respectively.

During the Bali Summit, His Excellency the Secretary General reaffirmed the fact that fighting global warming is the principal moral challenge of our generation. Earlier, in September of 2007, our heads of State and Government gathered in this same room and expressed their will and support for a multilateral commitment, under the United Nations System, on Climate Change.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentleman,

The fourth IPCC report is unequivocal in finding that human activities are the cause for Climate Change.

The observance of the effects of Climate Change is pointing to an unhealthy future for humanity, particularly for small island states and the Least Developed Countries.

We must all consider that we are under obligation not to transfer to future generations the negative legacy associated with these climate changes.

In the case of African countries, in spite of their miniscule contribution to the emissions of Greenhouse gases, the effects of climate change are already visible in their economies.

Many African countries are heavily affected by drought and desertification. We are witnessing the intensification of the damages caused by drastic variations of the pluviometric regimes, which in each occasion penalize populations and hamper the implementation of food security programs as well as programs and strategies for the alleviation of poverty; all of which aimed at achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the millennium development goals.

Ladies and Gentleman,

In Bali, we made the first steps towards the necessary agreement on much lower emissions of greenhouse gases without prejudice to sustained economic growth. The next steps must also address the effective operationalization of the adaptation

fund and other financing mechanisms, as well as to encourage international cooperation to respond to the challenges posed by climate change.

We have full confidence in the capacity of the United Nations System to confront the challenges posed by climate change, and this is why we are all gathered here today to express our commitment to the desired and indispensable collective efforts for a successful negotiation of a global agreement before the end of 2009 as per the Bali Road Map.

Recognizing that all parties must contribute in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, Angola, a Post Conflict country for less than six years ago, engaged in the difficult process of national reconstruction, will contribute by among other actions, encouraging and mobilizing all private and public actors, NGOs as well as local communities to participate in the implementation of the National Strategy prepared under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. This strategy was announced here, in September of 2007, by His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola.

The Government's partners are called upon to adhere to measures and programs in various sectors, including actions in energy: through the use of renewable energy and the increase in the provision of electricity; in transportation: through improvements in urban and intra-urban public transportation system, rehabilitation of the road and rail networks; in forests: through the creation of forest reservations and the maintenance of virgin stocks; in industry: through the establishment of fiscal incentives for the use of clean technologies; and in the oil industry: through the elimination of the burning of gases associated with the production of oil.

Mr. President,

To enable Least Developed Countries such as Angola to effectively participate in the collective efforts of mitigation and adaptation of the United Nations system, it is imperative to establish priority measures seeded in national and regional initiatives aiming at:

- Development of continues observation capacities and systemic analysis of the effects of Climate Change;
- Assisting the development of local early warning systems and plans for the prevention of natural risks;
- Sustainable tropical forestry and fighting desertification;
- Ensuring access to clean technologies; and
- Improving access to available financing throughout the United Nations System.

Thank you