



Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

**TÉTE ANTÓNIO**

**MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION**

**HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE**

**ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

**“Supporting the renewed commitment of the Great Lakes  
countries in seeking sustainable solutions to the root causes  
and drivers of conflict”**

**NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2021**

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820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017



**REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA**

**SECURITY COUNCIL**

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**STATEMENT BY H. E. TÊTE ANTÓNIO  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**Excellency, Ambassador Raychelle OMAMO,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperate,  
Cabinet Secretary, Republic of Kenya;**

**Excellency, Antonio Gutteres, Secretary General United Nations**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Madam President,**

Allow me at the outset, to congratulate you, Madam President, and through you, the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the latter's accession at the helm of the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of October.

I wish to seize this opportunity, on behalf of **H. E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, in his capacity as Chair of the International Conference of the Great Lakes, for the invitation extended to me to participate in this important High-Level Ministerial Security Council Open Debate on the theme, "Supporting the renewed commitment of the Great Lakes countries in seeking sustainable solutions to the root causes and drivers of conflict" and wish this august body very fruitful deliberations aimed at finding lasting solutions to the problems of the Great Lakes region.

I also wish to thank the Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, **Huang Xia**; the Executive Secretary for the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador **João Samuel Caholo** and the Assistant Secretary General for Africa, **Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa**

**Pobee** for their very informative briefings touching on pertinent and critical realities of the Great Lakes Region.

**Madam President,**

The Republic of Angola assumed the Presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, and embarked on a path of re-dynamizing and strengthening the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), to enhance its capacity to address the challenges of peace, security, stability and development in the region, with support and collaboration of bilateral partners as well as multilateral partners, namely, the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations.

The Strategic Plan of the Angolan Presidency is anchored on the Pact for Peace, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of 15 December 2006 and governed by the principles of International Law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations Organization and the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

In this context, the Government of Angola remains committed to a regional approach for the effective implementation of its Strategic Plan as well as the United Nations Strategy for the Consolidation of Peace, Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes region, in line with the Framework Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region.

We believe that the full implementation of the agreement is sine qua non for resolving the deep-seated causes of the conflicts and obstacles that continue to stymie progress towards socio-economic development and regional integration.

That being said, Madam President, and as aptly pointed out in the Concept Note prepared for this debate, we cannot but note and welcome notable progress in the Great Lakes region over the past few years occasioned by the peaceful transfers of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi including the signing and implementation of peace agreements in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan.

However, despite the achievements under the PSC Framework Agreement, some challenges still need to be overcome, namely: illicit exploitation of natural resources, tense relations between some countries in the region, a high number of refugees and internally displaced persons, violations of human rights, humanitarian issues and the growing terrorist threat in the sub-region.

**Madam President,**

Angola remains strongly committed to the central role that preventive diplomacy plays in conflict resolution in the Great Lakes Region and the urgent need to place the Great Lakes Region on the path of sustainable development, through the promotion of investments, increased participation of international financial institutions and the private sector in order to improve the livelihood of the people.

Angola, as President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), convened, respectively, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April and the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, the second and third mini-summits for the revitalization of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. The second summit decided to create a working group cochaired by the Foreign Ministers of Angola and Rwanda to implement, in collaboration with the Central African authorities, the recommendations by **H. E. President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, Chair of the ICGLR,

following the consultations with armed groups and Government of the Central African Republic.

During the Third mini-summit, the Heads of State approved a Joint Road Map for Peace for the Central African Republic, which includes, amongst other issues, the continuation of consultations with the leaders of armed groups to renounce violence, a ceasefire declaration by the Government of the Central African Republic and the launch of the activities of the working group created at the second Summit.

As a result of the roadmap adopted at the Luanda mini-summit, **H. E. President Faustin Archange Touadéra** announced, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, a unilateral ceasefire across the country. We urge all parties to respect the ceasefire and constructively engage through an inclusive political dialogue in the implementation of the Political Agreement for peace and reconciliation in Central African Republic on 2019.

We take this opportunity to recall the request made to this Security Council by His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and Acting President of the ICGLR, during the 8802<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the UN Security Council, held on 23 June 2021, regarding the need to lift the arms embargo on the Central African Republic.

While Angola's request still remains valid, we believe that the assessment and determination of maintaining the embargo in light of the positive progress achieved on the ground by the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) rests with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

As part of the high-level diplomatic initiatives in the region to strengthen cooperation in security matters, a Contact and Coordination Group has been established by Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda with the task of coordinating the implementation of non-military

measures to complement military operations against negative forces in the region.

The establishment of the Contact and Coordination Group is the result of a consensus between the military and civilian intelligence services of the Great Lakes countries on the need for a comprehensive approach in the fight against illegal armed groups in the eastern part of the DRC. This approach is aimed at complementing military action against these groups with non-military measures. This requires, a priori the involvement of civil society organizations, local communities, provincial authorities, and national DDRR commissions.

We are confident that this initiative is an important step towards reducing the threat posed by armed groups. It cannot be over-emphasized that the success of the Contact and Coordination Group will depend on the level of commitment and engagement of all the countries involved.

**Madam President,**

The Great Lakes Region has been plagued by conflict and political instability for decades. Evidence points to the illicit exploitation and trade of natural resources as one of the key drivers of this instability.

It is therefore of fundamental importance that the nexus between natural resources and conflicts must be brought to bear in the formulation of adequate responses and mitigation measures.

In this regard, the eastern part of the DRC, one of the highest concentration of minerals and precious metals, represents a multidimensional challenge for the economic and human development of the affected countries and the region as a whole.

A renewed commitment is therefore required to put the Great Lakes Region back on the path to sustainable development: strong leadership, political will,

strong and viable institutions and state-building are essential pre-requisite to ensure the effective participation of citizens and communities in socio-economic and political choices, decentralization service providers, transparency in the public sector and financial management. Sustaining peace is an important objective to be achieved through open dialogue among all stakeholders.

Responsible and transparent exploration and trade in natural resources within and outside the region depend on the constructive cooperation of all actors along the mineral supply chain.

**Madam President,**

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that Angola will continue its efforts, under its chairmanship of the ICGLR, to Consolidate Peace, Conflict Prevention and Resolution in the Great Lakes Region working in close cooperation, consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders to promote a shared vision in addressing the complex challenges to peace, security, and development in the Great Lakes Region.

**I Thank you for your kind attention!**