**SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**JULY 7, 2015**

**EXPLANATION OF VOTE**

Mr. President,

Angola abstained in today’s vote on the Resolution tabled by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the following reasons:

First of all, Angola has not a denial posture: we acknowledge that on the 11th of July 1995 extremely grave facts occurred in Srebrenica, that amount to a genocide, as was recognized by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Our fundamental disagreement stems from the fact that, the text should take into account, in the same manner, the many thousands of victims of massacres, from all over the region, during the war period in the territory that was latter to become Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the other side, it was our expectation that the text would express the achieved level of reconciliation and cooperation among the States and communities in the region, and look forward, that is, towards the future, the healing, reconciliation and the building of a better future for all peoples that geography and history put living together to share the past, the present and the future.

In our view, this Resolution does not bring positive results and, on the contrary, it seems to us that at the present juncture it can contribute to exacerbate the sharp differences still existing.

20 years after the events in the Former Yugoslavia, such a Resolution seems to us that may bring more harm than good to the ongoing, but still fragile reconciliation process, and may have a negative impact on the efforts of the responsible leaders of the Balkan States to create a better common future, which has already produced significant results.

It was our expectation that the final text of the draft resolution would translate a required level of compromise between the members of the Security Council, permitting a consensual text in which all members would recognize themselves.

We would prefer to have a Resolution focusing on positive aspects that addresses genuine reconciliation. We favored a Resolution dealing with past, as lessons learned, and seeking a future oriented approach, which would help the region to face the needs of the present and the future, and encourage, facilitate and accelerate the process of cooperation and reconciliation in the Balkans.

Thank you Mr. President.