**SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**JULY 8, 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 over Srebrenica for the following reasons:

First of all, Angola has not a posture of denial on the issue: whatever we may call, mass murder, mass atrocity or genocide, the subject matter is that 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 of the draft resolution 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 the independent State of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the other side, it was our expectation that the text would take stock of the level of reconciliation and cooperation among the States and communities in the region, and look forward, that is, towards the future, to 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.

20 years after the events in the Former Yugoslavia, such a Resolution does not give any tangible contribution to the ongoing, and 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 favor a Resolution focusing on positive aspects addressing genuine reconciliation, dealing with the past, as lessons to be learned, and seeking a future oriented approach, by helping the region to face the needs of the present and of the future, by encouraging, facilitating and accelerating the process of reconciliation and cooperation in the Balkans.

Thank you Mr. President.