Security Council

Human Rights Situation in DPRK

10 December 2015

Explanation of Procedural Vote

Madame President,

We are meeting today at the request to the President of the Security Council, by nine Security Council member States, to discuss the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On 22 December 2014 this Council decided to add to its agenda a new item "The situation in the DPRK" separate from the non-proliferation issue.

At the time we were not members of the Security Council.

If we were, our vote would have been NO, **as it was today.**

Angola has been extending its full support and cooperation to the Security Council and to the Sanctions Committee on the issue of nuclear proliferation by DPRK, taking into account our unwavering support to the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and our conviction that nuclear proliferation in the Korean Peninsula constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security.

Concerning the human rights situation in the DPRK it is our conviction that it does not constitute a threat to regional or international peace and security, thereby falling outside the Security Council mandate, whose primary responsibility, conferred by the UN Charter, is the maintenance of international peace and security.

Moreover, the General Assembly is already dealing with the human rights situation in the DPRK, and there is the United Nations Human Rights Council, which is the appropriate forum to discuss and deliberate on human rights issues.

Our position is also dictated by our disapproval of double standards criteria so often applied by this Council: there are country situations were egregious violations of human rights take place on a daily basis, who sponsor terrorism and promote conflicts, without being subject to a word of condemnation by the Security Council.

I thank you Madame President