



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço
President of the Republic of Angola and
President of the Southern African Development
Community (SADC)**

**At the
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(SDG Summit 2023)**

September 18th, 2023

Please check against delivery

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



**Statement to be delivered by
His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço,
President of the Republic of Angola and President of the Southern
African Development Community (SADC)
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
Convened under the auspices
of the General Assembly
(SDG Summit 2023)
September 18th, 2023**

Excellency Denis Francis,
President of the 78th session of the United Nations
General Assembly,

Excellency António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Excellence Paula Narvaez,
President of the Economic and Social Council of the
United Nations,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Heads of Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to take the floor, as Chairperson-in-Office of the Southern African Development Community SADC, at what I consider to be a crucial opportunity to together examine the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the level of the different regions represented at this Summit.

This is a time when the assessment we make of our performance will allow us to take steps to correct or rectify anything that we feel has not been done in the most appropriate way.

We need to make this summit of ours a real turning point for a more dynamic, committed and engaged approach, with a view to strengthening our political commitment and mobilizing the will to help make progress in areas whose results will be positively reflected in improving the general living conditions of our populations.

Excellencies,

The SADC region has made remarkable progress in implementing the regional cooperation and integration priorities outlined in the organization's Vision 2050 and the Indicative Regional Development Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

We must also recognize that a number of constraints stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other factors, including the instability that has affected some countries in the region, have had a considerable negative impact on the ability of countries to more effectively carry out strategic plans aimed at deepening the regional integration of southern Africa and promoting its development, with a view to achieving the ambitions of the *Africa we want*, set out in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Our progress could have been more significant and more expressive if we hadn't had to deal with the global crisis and others specific to our region, which forced us to divert our attention from the central development issues to deal with them.

In addition, it is always worth mentioning that the difficulties in accessing financial resources in conditions that are affordable for our economies represents another side of the problem, perhaps the biggest, that we are constantly facing in order to carry out essential projects in areas that are crucial to boosting our development, on which the creation of conditions that favor the necessary and urgent change in the picture and indicators of poverty that are currently observed in our countries naturally depends.

Nothing in the plans, objectives, and programs that we have outlined over the years can be achieved effectively and with the positive results that we all want to see if we don't make a coordinated effort to eliminate the conflicts, instability, insecurity, and unpredictability that discourage investment and deprive our markets of the credibility they need for our international partners to invest more in our economies.

We are aware of the interdependent relationship that exists between Peace and Development and, as a result, the Republic of Angola, in its capacity as Chairperson of SADC, will continue to develop actions with a view to the future realization of SADC's Vision 2050, which envisages

a region with political and social stability, peace and economic development and justice and freedom for its citizens.

These objectives, which are specific to our region and also shared by our international partners, will be achievable with a joint effort among all of us, but with far fewer constraints and obstacles, if the relationship between our region and the international community develops without unilateral coercive measures against SADC member states, as in the case of Zimbabwe.

Excellencies,

The Southern African region, as we have been observing, has been subjected to the consequences of climate change with all the harmful effects this has on the region's economies.

It's easy to realize for the reasons I've just mentioned that we are highly sensitivity to this problem and so I want to stress the need to implement the international climate change agenda and fulfill the promises made by developed countries to make financial resources available so that, with some other complementary resources, we can ensure the financing of adaptation by 2025 in order to

achieve the objective of recapitalizing the Green Climate Fund.

I would like to end by stressing the importance of global cooperation, solidarity, and joint action in order to tackle the multiple and complex challenges facing the world today, and I therefore call on the United Nations General Assembly to put these goals at the top of its agenda for the foreseeable future.

I thank you.