**Security Council**

Open debate

Maintaining International Peace and Security

23 February 2015

Mr. President, His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China,

Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,

Distinguished Ministers,

Members of the Council,

I would like, at the outset, to thank the Chinese Presidency of the Security Council for organizing this important debate.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the end of the Second World War and the victory of our peoples over fascism.

The twentieth century was marked by two world wars which brought untold sorrow to mankind. The worst in human nature surfaced in utmost brutality, in a time in which intellectual thinking, cultural refinement and scientific progress had achieved unparalleled heights in the history of mankind, leading to the establishment of new type of relations among nations and the peoples of the world.

The United Nations was the response to the grim realities of the past and the Charter, embodies the international community conception of this new type of relations, including the end of colonialism and the right of all peoples to self-determination and independence.

The preamble of the Charter outlines how the peoples of the world should live in peace and harmony. It makes far reaching declarations of purpose by embodying a comprehensive program for maintaining international peace and security.

The Peoples of the United Nations express determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, a declaration that, unfortunately, is far from being fulfilled.

The United Nations has, nonetheless, played a crucial role in the maintenance of international peace and security, by promoting friendlier relations among nations, the cooperation in solving international problems, and in codifying international law, as the basis of the peaceful coexistence between states, a trait of international relations in which the United Nations scored remarkable success.

In our contemporary world, with armed conflicts proliferating, mainly intrastate, due to exclusion - political, social, economic, or to intolerance - religious, racial, tribal, or sheer disrespect of basic human rights, the United Nations is faced with the necessity to adapt its strategies for the maintenance of peace and security.

In fact, we say with regret that in the 70 years of its existence, the United Nations was not able to materialize the declaration of its founders: to save future generations from the scourge of war, since war and violent conflict continue to be part of the daily lives of millions of people.

Mr. President,

The Peoples of the United Nations, reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations, large and small.

Those are fundamental percepts for maintaining international peace and security.

Since the foundation of the United Nations, and under its impulse, the world has witnessed outstanding advancement in this respect: many countries made remarkable civilizational progress in promoting the value and dignity of the human person, conferred equal rights to men and women; while processes of national emancipation from colonialism, and regional integration has tended to harmonize relations between large and small nations.

The United Nations remains the main rampart to the protection and promotion of human rights. Its work for the respect of human rights, and codification of the international human rights law, are significant contributions in this important fight for human dignity and, consequently, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Another issue in which the Peoples of the United Nations put special emphasis is the establishment of conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained.

The Charter establishes the principles that make up the foundation of contemporary international relations: respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of international disputes and non-interference in other country´s internal affairs.

However, these principles, enshrined in the Charter are violated time and again with countries continuing to interfere in other countries internal affairs, violating the Charter and thus threatening international peace and security.

The promotion of social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom are fundamental instances determined by the Peoples of the United Nations.

In fact, endemic poverty, social and economic exclusion, the denial of fundamental freedoms constitutes today an explosive cocktail and a real threat to peace and security.

Development, well-being and democracy are pillars for peaceful and inclusive societies. The nexus of peace and development is central in the building of inclusive and peaceful societies and crucial elements for the maintenance of peace and security.

The Peoples of the United Nations also decided to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors. However, this has been one of the most failed of the proclamations contained in the Charter's declaration.

At present conflicts - intrastate and asymmetric – intolerance and hatred are directed against the other for being different - the neighbor, due to differences of race, tribe, clan, religion, or even gender.

Intolerance became a deadly threat to peace. This is a feature even present in affluent, democratic and participative societies, which have great difficulties in integrating and tolerate communities of different origins, giving rise to dangerous situations that are real threats to peace.

The present form of terrorism, the most egregious feature of intolerance, and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters should be a wake up call to us all, in the way we manage the integration of communities of foreign origin.

The Peoples of the United Nations also pledged to unite in the maintenance of international peace and security, thus giving the United Nations the necessary leverage to act in crisis situations that represent threats to peace and security, by conferring to the Security Council the primary responsibility to act on their behalf, in carrying out its duties.

The demonstration of confidence in the Security Council means that its decisions must not be based on partisan or private interests, but correspond to the real objective of attaining peace, based on a consensus and consent by the international community.

It follows that the Security Council is accountable to the entire United Nations membership, a commitment which, in our view, calls for a reform of this body, making it more democratic in its methods of work, more representative in its membership, as well as for a reform of the veto power, and the review of its relationship with the wider UN membership.

The Peoples of the United Nations demand that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, a proclamation that barely corresponds to the realities of contemporary international life.

Too often, threats of the use of force, sheer use of military force out of common interest and also unilateral military action, based on wrong assessments and miscalculations, account for wider consequences for many countries and to the international community at large.

Member States acceptance, application of the UN principles and operational methods to ensure that force shall only be used in situations of eminent threat to peace, and after exhausting all options of peaceful settlement should be adhered to.

Finally, in its proclamation, the Peoples of the United Nation pledge to employ the international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples

The contemporary and multifaceted world in which we live, calls for a multilateral approach and greater unity of purpose among Member States to tackle global challenges. This is the cornerstone to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for present and future generations.

Mr. President,

As a peace loving country and member of the Security Council, Angola values greatly the action of the United Nations.

In this connection, it is important to mention the decisive role played by the Security Council in the process of condemnation and isolation of the apartheid regime, which was a major source of conflict in Southern African and a serious threat to international peace and security.

By its actions, the Security Council gave a significant contribution to the fight for justice, equality and social progress of the peoples of Southern Africa and to their struggle to put an end to apartheid and colonialism in the region.

Angola, which forty years ago was in the front line in applying the Security Council resolutions concerning the struggle against apartheid, and for the emancipation of the peoples of southern Africa, paid a very high price in loss of human lives, material destruction, by facing for many years the apartheid regime's military aggression.

For that, we value the important contribution by the international community and the pivotal role of the Security Council in this process.

 Mr. President,

We commend the vital role the United Nations plays in ensuring that member states uphold the principles and purposes stipulated in the Charter.

The United Nations has our full support in its work of promoting the cooperation in maintaining international peace and security, and being the center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of our common goals.

To end, we want once again commend the initiative of the Presidency of China by giving us this opportunity to discuss and take stock of our action in the Council, at a time the challenges facing the international community are measurable to those faced 70 years ago, and therefore to reflect and seek on new ways to deal with the growing threats facing our world.

Thank you!