

Your Excellency Mrs. Michele Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile,

Mrs. Helen Clark, Director of the United Nations Programme for Development,

Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women,

Ambassador António de Aguiar Patriota, President of the Peace Building Commission

Beforehand, I thank Her Excellency Mrs. Michele Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile for chairing this meeting of the Security Council on this important issue that concerns us all. Indeed, inclusion in all its forms and expressions is a theme of utmost importance in this globalized world where expressions of intolerance and hatred, derived from exclusion became a key feature of our societies and constitute a grave threat to international peace and security.

I take the opportunity to commend the Chilean Presidency OF THE Security Council for the month of January 2015 and for its excellent work in advancing the important mission entrusted upon the Security Council.

Madame President,

The theme proposed by the Chilean Chairmanship for this debate is of crucial importance in the contemporary world, as the multifaceted aspects of inclusion—including territorial, political, economic, ethnic and cultural aspects are of great complexity and are not linked exclusively to conflict.

The issue of inclusion also concerns historically consolidated States which, after many centuries of existence as state entities, have yet to address inclusion challenges. The existence of centrifugal forces resulting from various levels of exclusion in some of these States is made evident by the existence of strong secessionist movements in countries where, from our point of view, such would be unlikely to happen despite doing so in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Madame President,

An important element for analysis, as referred to in the concept paper for this session, is the issue of territorial inclusion. Indeed, this is the starting point to ensure that all the regions and people that comprise a particular country are treated alike, thereby strengthening national identity and safeguarding territorial integrity. Territorial exclusion is therefore the starting point for the existence of centrifugal forces that can lead to the

territorial fragmentation of states.

Conversely, national inclusion gives all citizens a sense of belonging, contributes decisively to national cohesion and social harmony, and thus for the effective mobilization of citizens for the great national goals related to peace and harmonious development.

It is in multi-ethnic countries that the challenges of inclusion prove more complex. In order to overcome the natural tendency to exclude others based on differences, it is essential that States address the problems of ethnicity with particular sensitivity so as to prevent the exclusion of any group of its national community, thereby promoting full coexistence and equal opportunities for all.

Social inclusion is also an imperative to building societies with free, responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights. In it lies the culture of peace, tolerance, and full acceptance of the differences inherent to social plurality. Social inclusion entails the need to fully streamline gender issues in the formulation of national policies. Indeed, in today's world, it is clear that women play a key role in the economic, social, and cultural life of peoples and countries, and their exclusion markedly impoverishes the life of societies that exclude them.

Economic exclusion is often based on the exploitation of well-defined social strata, and is based on the concept of superiority of one particular group over the rest of society. It is, in general, the root cause of social conflicts that often culminate in acts of extreme violence. In contrast, economic inclusion, as an expression of the participation of the entire social fabric in the enjoyment of national wealth, remains tangible and crucial for the consolidation of the sense of belonging, for the effective participation in, and enjoyment of, the work of each individual.

Finally, cultural inclusion—particularly in the context of multicultural societies, is of vital importance to the growth of social and national cohesion, while also an asset of great significance and of great wealth, provided there is respect for differences and the intrinsic nature of each culture that composes the national cultural fabric.

Madame President,

Political stability is the foundation on which rests the economic and social development of any country. However, we are aware that political stability is not an end in itself. It should be based on a suitable system of participation in governance by political forces and by all social strata.

This means that inclusive governance is the best guarantee to obtain dividends from

effective representativeness for economic development, social harmony and effective human development.

Democratic and participatory governance also guarantee that even when situations arise that may cause feelings of exclusion in a given society, they can be resolved in a peaceful and democratic manner in the search for consensus in decision-making, particularly on the key issues of national life.

Identifying and acting swiftly whenever signs of exclusion arise in a specific country are wide-ranging objectives that are incumbent upon the United Nations, regional and sub-regional organizations, and relevant national actors to pursue.

Indeed, national governments, international and regional organizations should develop early warning mechanisms for integrated actions to be conducted at the national, regional or international level in order to act immediately on the causes of tension and misunderstanding before they degenerate into conflict.

We believe that as a facet of international life, conflict prevention is an important factor in building a more peaceful world, and one that better identifies with the values of peace. In post-conflict situations in societies that are almost always dysfunctional, it is an imperative to formulate policies to harmonize and strengthen the political, security, development, human rights and the rule of law aspects, with a view to reconciliation, good governance and the strengthening of social cohesion.

In countries emerging from armed conflict, peacebuilding must be carried out as part of an inclusive process that will overcome misunderstandings, restore confidence and lay the foundations for lasting peace, which implies building inclusive societies through the implementation of appropriate policies with a positive impact, particularly in the fields of education, social dialogue and social and economic inclusion.

Angola, a country in post-conflict situation, has been conducting its peace-building process within parameters that are consistent with the main elements that we have stressed, and has sought to undertake them in an environment of enormous development challenges.

Since 2002, the Government has been conducting a broad economic and social reintegration program for segments of the population which were marginalized during the armed conflict, especially ex-combatants and their families.

Angola has also sought to build a society of free and responsible citizens, developing

policies of social inclusion for such purpose, among which the promotion of government policies, namely concerning the rural woman who is gradually taking a more assertive role thus occupying her rightful place in the rural community.

Translating this priority in our national policy, 2015 has been proclaimed the "Year of the rural woman" and, in line with the concern of the international community regarding the role of women in peace and development.

In general, our appraisal on the role of women in Angolan society is quite positive. Indeed, the advancement of women has made remarkable progress in recent years, and women have come to occupy an important space in the political, economic and social life of the country.

The economic growth of recent years should be reflected into tangible economic and social wellbeing of all citizens of Angola.

It is with this objective in mind that the Angolan authorities have been developing economic policies aimed at the inclusion of the national community in the gains obtained in recent years.

Lastly, Angola fully supports the Presidential Statement adopted as the outcome of this very constructive debate.

I thank you Madame President