**Statement made by**

**H. E. Mr. Joaquim Ventura, Secretary of State for Energy**

**Ministerial Dialogue on Global Energy**

**May 21st, 2015**

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I thank the Secretary-General for organizing this forum, which aims to discuss the future energy landscape, at a time of particular relevance to the United Nations, as we, the Member States, find ourselves engaged in the definition of a new development agenda for the coming decades. The subject at hand is indeed regarded as critical for the economic, environmental and development issues facing the world today, and represents a unique opportunity and should be an integral part of the definition of the Post-2015.

I would also like to commend the panelists for their insightful and relevant presentations. The discussions held in these last three days have undoubtedly reaffirmed the link between sustainable energy and the attainment of economic and sustainable growth.

I am certain that the identification of new challenges and solutions for the energy sector will be a valuable contribution to the development of measures that are conducive to the achievement of sustainable energy development globally.

Mr. President,

Access to energy sources in general, and to clean, reliable, efficient and affordable energy in developing countries in particular, is essential effort to eradicate poverty and improve people's health while increasing productivity, strengthening the competitiveness of industries and promoting economic growth.

Also, we are aware of the need to move forward with the diversification of primary energy sources. We are certain that the implementation and increased use of renewable energy will not only preserve the environment and reduce harmful emissions, but also contribute substantially to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

To meet this goal, we must adopt appropriate policies and promote cutting-edge technologies aimed at increasing the efficiency of resources and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Angola is truly committed to the adoption of a model in the context of sustainable development, and one which provides the necessary conditions for social welfare, inclusive economic growth and environmental protection.

Mr. President,

Angola’s vision is focused on creating an energy system that meets the national demand for energy in a safe, timely, sustainable and efficient manner, and which supports planning, research and continuous innovation. The country has shown substantial economic development, and the energy sector has satisfied the growing demand for different energy sources.

To this end, the Government of Angola has in the last years implemented a series of medium- and large-scale projects to achieve the stated objectives. The focus is on the rehabilitation of numerous social infrastructures and reconstruction of all hydroelectric dams in the country, which have allowed for the expansion of electricity transmission and distribution, and for the improvement of the standard of living of populations of urban and rural areas.

Similarly, we have prepared and approved a strategic energy security plan, which is complemented by a medium-term development plan, both falling under the Decade of Sustainable Energy for all 2014-2024, with the following objectives, among others: (i) Increase the national electrification rate by around 60% by 2025; (ii) Increase installed production capacity by 9.900MW by 2025 using 66% water sources, 19% natural gas sources, 8% renewable energies, and 7% thermal energy.

In addition to this, Angola will initiate its Emissions Plan with the support of the United Nations. We have prepared and approved the National Adaptation Plan and the Strategic Renewable Energies Plan. This strategy aims at ensuring universal accessibility and use of the Country's energy potential to diversify the electricity supply sources, reduce production costs and ensure the security of supply channels with solutions that safeguard the environment.

With this program, the Government of Angola foresees the provision of universal access to energy to more than half of the population and the linkage of the national grid to the regional network of SADC.

Mr. President,

Angola believes that universal access to sustainable energy is the key to the development of wealth in rural areas, to poverty reduction, maximization of social inclusion and improvement of the population's living conditions. In this connection, a rural electrification plan with national coverage has also been prepared, which includes isolated systems with local water, solar or thermal sources, and individual systems using solar panels that contribute to achieving the objectives mentioned above.

Furthermore, we want to emphasize that the energy sector not only has a great responsibility in environmental issues, but also a source of opportunities. For this purpose, we have adopted a national institutional reform process that covers both public and private companies, and a new market regulation model that enables cost and tariff reduction to safeguard the low-income population.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, returning to the issue of climate change, the scientific evidence is overwhelming in favor of concerted action at all levels, starting with the issue that brings us here today -- sustainable energy. With COP 21 almost upon us, as it will be held in December this year in Paris, our efforts must be guided to the achievement of concrete, fair, and necessary results for the well-being of future generations.

Angola currently chairs the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the negotiations for the creation of a new international framework on climate change, and that makes us increasingly active in seeking more appropriate and sustainable options, as well as the deepening of the dialogue leading to the signing of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you.