

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MS. M. PATRICIA DURRANT  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON THE BRIEFING ON  
THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA**

**NEW YORK, 18 JANUARY 2000**

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. President,

My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for his report on the situation in Angola – including on the activities of the United Nations office in Angola (UNOA). The report provides a useful update on political developments, as well as on the military, human rights, humanitarian, socio-economic and other aspects since the adoption of Resolution 1268 in October 1999.

While some measure of stability has been achieved in several areas of the country in which there has been a re-establishment of state authority, the general security situation with its risk of spill over into the neighbouring countries, particularly into Namibia, must continue to be of concern to the international community. The Secretary-General has, in his report, referred to recent high-level meetings focussing on issues related to security along Angola's borders; and we hope that the bilateral understandings and agreements reported reached will reduce the threat to regional peace and security.

My delegation agrees that the establishment of stability, security and harmony in Angola is largely dependent on the achievement of national reconciliation. We therefore welcome the Angolan Government's recommitment to the Lusaka Protocol as a valid basis for the peace process.

Mr. President,

The path to peace can only be successful if both sides commit themselves to national reconciliation. The perpetuation of the conflict diverts scarce resources into sterile confrontation, which can only lead to further suffering for the war weary people of Angola and the further destruction of the country's infrastructure. We urge the government to implement plans for the holding of legislative and presidential elections as soon as possible.

We call on UNITA to spare the innocent people of Angola the continued hardship that can be the only result of the continuation of this conflict by ending the fighting at the earliest opportunity and to comply with the obligations under the Lusaka Protocol. In particular, it must demilitarise its forces and allow the return of state administration throughout the country. We urge the release of the Russian aircraft crew as well as other missing personnel being held captive by UNITA.

We are also very concerned about the escalation of fighting along the Angolan/Namibian border and the reports that the fighting has spilled over into Namibia. We cannot fail to acknowledge the precarious humanitarian situation prevailing in the country. The estimated 3.7 million people who have been displaced by the conflict have little or no access to humanitarian aid and their circumstances remain dire indeed. We are hopeful that the recent restoration of stability in those areas where the Angolan government has resumed control will lead to the resumption of humanitarian aid to the people who are so desperately in need of such assistance.

The international community will need to assist the Angolan Government in those tasks, which will be of paramount importance upon the cessation of hostilities, namely, the reintegration of ex-combatants and the resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees into the mainstream of Angolan life. The rebuilding of Angola's infrastructure will also require close coordination on the part of the international community and various United Nations organisations. These programmes should address such areas as employment generation, training, capacity building, through micro-financing and community recovery including de-mining and longer-term infrastructure rehabilitation.

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