

Message from His Excellency José Eduardo dos Santos,  
President of the Republic of Angola, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference  
of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention  
on Climate Change, to be held in Durban, South Africa,  
from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 09<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**YOUR EXCELLENCY JACOB ZUMA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

On behalf of His Excellency Engineer José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, I commend the holding of this Conference, since it echoes the desire to increase our knowledge on the threats faced by our countries and people due to the growing and worrying increase of the green-house effect on the atmosphere, coupled with the consequent climate change.

I am confident that this Conference will approve global agreement on the international legal regime on climate change and that shall enable the functioning of some institutions created under the Cancun Agreement, in December 2010, namely the Green Climate Fund and the Technology Transfer Committee.

It is also important for this Conference to consolidate the common African stand, established during the Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Bamako, which not only defends adjustment to climate change and the commitment to reduce the emission of green-house effect gases, but also the assurance of funding, by developed countries, of sustainable projects for global development.

These are, above all, vital for our Continent, due to the various climate phenomena affecting it, such as drought and desertification, as the urgent need to eradicate hunger and poverty and curb widespread endemic disease, in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Although they are not responsible for the increase of green-house effect gases on the atmosphere, African countries and other developing nations are the ones that suffer the most from its effects, which are worsened unsustainable agricultural activities, by poverty and by the lack of infrastructures and enough staff trained to curb the challenges of climate phenomena.

The continuous degradation of forests, loss of soil fertility and the consequent reduction of food production, the tendency of aggravating extreme climate phenomena, such as drought and floods, are the biggest challenges faced by countries of our continent.

Due to this fact, the common African platform recognises the need to preserve forests as carbon reservoirs and aims at its sustainable management, thereby avoiding its degradation with adequate financial resources from public sources and from the carbon market specified in the Green Fund.

With regards to this, and in the capacity of Acting Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency President José Eduardo dos Santos urges its members to support the decisions contained in the African Platform and obey the guidelines of the African Union, based on the Continental Strategy on Climate Change, and the viewpoints of SADC and of Least Developed Countries concerning this theme.

## **EXCELLENCIES,**

By ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 2000, and the Kyoto Protocol, in 2007, the Republic of Angola assumed the commitment of fulfilling what has been stipulated in these two important international regulations.

In accordance to this, it approved in 2008 a strategy aimed at establishing the structure of intervention in the legislative, technical and human fields, so as to contribute to stabilising the emissions of green-house effect gases and for the country's technological development.

Therefore, apart from establishing a National Action Plan of Adjustment to Climate Change, due to being part of the Least Development Countries, structuring investments have been approved and actions of education, awareness and upgrading have been implemented, for a better understanding of the whole process relating to environmental preservation and adjustment to the harmful effect of climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol stands as the only appropriate tool in terms of regulations, procedures and legal structure, which enables to maintain the international community committed to the efforts of reducing the green-house effect. As a result, there is a need to assume other commitments until when a broader legal framework can be negotiated, agreed on and ratified by the parties.

The global efforts of transition to a future where growth can resist to climate change and with low emissions of green-house effect gases, should be guided and regarded as of long-term and cover actions for reducing, adapting, funding and transference of technology fit to the creation of low carbon economies. To put this into practice, the objectives and targets of reduction should be based on scientific data and not only on economic points of view.

These actions and considerations should be introduced in the "Rio Principles", which recognise the historic responsibility of industrialised nations and protect the right to the development of the countries under the process of achieving them.

We hope that the Rio+20 Summit, scheduled for June 2012, will provide the scene necessary to renew the commitment of humanity to protect the planet for the current and future generations, safeguarding the sustainable development.