



Republic of Angola

**STATEMENT BY
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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
TWENTY EIGHTH
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

DUBAI, 2nd DECEMBER, 2023

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His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates,
His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, President of COP28,
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change,
Dear Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with the greatest honor that I address the different delegations present at this 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and I would like to express our thanks to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the welcome they accorded to me since our arrival in this city of Dubai.

Given the excellent working conditions put forth to the holding of this event, I would like to highlight the very special relevance it assumes, as it is an occasion in which we will carry out the First Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, within which we will try to take stock of the impact of the policies that we have implemented jointly and individually as countries, with the aim of achieving the objective of mitigating the serious consequences of climate change that have ravaged our planet.

It is clear that as a result of the effects of these changes, mainly the populations of our countries, the regions to which each one of us belongs and the world in a broader sense, are, among others, the segment most affected by climate change, especially because there is a very harmful impact of this process on people's daily lives, their productive activity, their mobility and, in short, their quality of life.

Excellencies,

The issue of climate change is part of the key priorities in all sustainable development programs and strategies that we outline in the Republic of Angola, which we consider a critical concern and therefore deserves special attention, always with the aim of strengthening our resilience, given the effects of these changes, which have already seriously affected the Angolan people in their daily lives, threatened to a large extent by the risk of destruction of the ecosystems of different species in some regions of our country.

We face all issues relating to climate change with great firmness and commitment, and on this matter, we do not compromise on any effort to contribute to global action aimed at environmental preservation, which is reflected in the National Strategy for Climate Change 2022 – 2035, which includes initiatives and visions aligned with the African Union's 2063 Agenda and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In view of the afore-going, I want to highlight the practical actions of the Republic of Angola, among which I underscore our commitment to renewable energy, which represents one of the main pillars of mitigation to climate change and constitutes, on our own initiative, a decisive step in the energy transition process.

We are committed to changing the national energy matrix, prioritizing clean energy production sources with the construction of hydroelectric plants and photovoltaic parks, which means that more than 65% of the current 6,400 MW of energy produced in the country now comes from sources ecologically recommended as they are environmentally friendly.

With the ongoing program to extend the national energy transmission network from the main production sources located in the lower Kwanza basin to the eastern and southern provinces of the country, our ambition for the next four years is to discontinue the use of thermal power plants that still power some parts of the national territory, which will represent not only a large financial saving but also a great environmental benefit with the significant reduction in the burning of fossil fuels in the generation of electrical energy.

The Republic of Angola is building new and expanding old hydroelectric dams, which have provided the country with a significant increase in its electrical energy production capacity and generated a surplus that can meet the needs of SADC neighbouring countries, especially with the completion of the hydroelectric development of Caculo Cabaça and the beginning of works on the national project of the Baynes hydroelectric dam on the Cunene river, for Angola and Namibia.

within the context of the efforts we have undertaken to significantly increase our renewable energy production capacity, we have been paying very special attention to the implementation of photovoltaic projects in some areas of our country, resulting in a huge reduction in annual consumption of diesel and, consequently, contributing to mitigating the effects of pollution while we meet the energy needs of the populations of these locations.

Still in this field, I want to emphasize other projects, of which I highlight the production of green hydrogen and its derivatives at the same time that we have been preparing and organizing ourselves to embark on the path of oil production with low carbon and methane emissions as our contribution to the fight against the increase in global temperatures, which affects our planet.

Angola has been a victim of the phenomenon of severe drought in the south of the country, with devastating effects on the lives of populations and animal life. This phenomenon that occurs cyclically in the south of Angola and in other parts of our planet, shows us all that it is important to act to prevent catastrophes of varying dimensions in the future, with measures to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, to ensure a more habitable and safe planet for future generations.

Due to the consequences of climate change, Angola had to seek urgent endogenous solutions to save entire populations from the effects of drought by investing large millions of dollars in the construction of a 165 Km Canal in the Cafu region, in the Province of Cunene, an infrastructure that made it possible to solve the serious problem that existed in that region, and helped to create at the same time factors that favoured the emergence of conditions that did not previously exist for the development of household farming, which in turn influenced the improvement of the

nutritional situation, with beneficial effects on public health and the well-being of Angolans in that location.

Two other larger projects, Ndue and Calucuve, are being built in the same province, and the construction of six other large water retention dams is planned in the province of Namibe, all within the scope of the broad program to combat the effects of the drought in southern Angola, the most affected region in the country.

We are developing, with national and foreign environmental organizations, an ambitious environmental education program aimed mainly at children, pupils, students and young people in general. With the same organizations, we are working with some success on the project to plant millions of mangrove seedlings for the recovery and preservation of mangroves along the vast Angolan Sea coast.

In this fight against the harmful consequences of climate change, we have counted on the support of important international partners with whom we have worked to develop a system to support warning information about this phenomenon in the Angolan region to which I mentioned, so that not only to prevent ourselves more effectively against these problems, but also to define a combination of different solutions that are considered the most appropriate.

Excellencies,

As part of the broad measures that the Angolan Government has been taking to improve all the mechanisms within its reach, with the aim of playing an important role in the context of global efforts to preserve environment, it is part of the National Space Strategy of Angola for the years 2016-2025, the initiative that consists of observing the earth using the satellite that will be placed in orbit in the near future, in order to serve as another tool that will enable the detection and mapping of oil spills at sea, to provide data on deforestation and illegal logging areas, monitoring compliance with environmental standards in mining activities, also including a technological solution designed to support monitoring the compliance with the indicators of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, I want to highlight the fact that we consider it important that a roadmap is defined at this COP in which the steps to be taken should be established, so that the commitments made at COP 26 in Glasgow are honoured, amongst which the goal of doubling the financing adaptation measures by 2025.

I think that when setting a new climate financing objective for the period after 2025, a whole set of factors will have to be taken into account that do not weaken or slow down the economies of developing countries, which are not capable of giving up from one moment to the next on natural resources, namely oil, as the main source of income on which they considerably rely, to ensure their survival, their economic and social development.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that Angola has submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 2015, its first national contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and I emphasize that we will keep the goal with the same determination of achieving a 35% reduction in gas emissions by 2030 meet the necessary funding for this purpose.

On the side-lines of this Climate Summit, Angola will join the initiatives of the United Nations and other specialized international organizations, on the decarbonization of the oil and gas industry and on the need to measure and reduce emissions of polluting gases such as carbon dioxide and methane gas, with ambitious targets as part of humanity's battle against climate change.

Excellencies,

The Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States “OACPS” held in Luanda in December last year, during which I took over the Chairmanship of the organization, underlies the responsibility of OACPS to look after their interests and take care of their concerns, with a focus, among others, on issues relating to climate change, taking into account that a good number of the countries that make up the grouping are particularly exposed to this phenomenon and the serious consequences that derive from it, such as

the frightening rise in ocean and sea levels, which threatens to make some Pacific and Caribbean islands disappear from the map.

I, therefore, want to place a very special emphasis on the importance that the issue of financial resources allocated to the climate assumes for the countries of these three regions of the world and, for this reason, I would like to highlight the fact that the need during this COP28, the framework for a new agreement for the financing necessary to carry out programs at a global level, within the scope of climate action, is established.

We are pleased that the Loss and Damage Fund was finally approved at this COP28, due to the great relevance it has for this group of countries that are among the most vulnerable in the world to the impacts of climate change.

I also want to emphasize that in seeking to express the general feeling of the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, OACPS, that COP 28, in formulating a new financial architecture for the climate we should consider climate justice as one of its most solid pillars. We highlight the need to fulfill the repeated promises of financial contributions and access to financing under favorable conditions for less industrialized, less developed countries, with emphasis on small island states most threatened by harmful environmental phenomena resulting from climate change.

I believe that the growing sensitivity of the people and nations of the world to issues related to the climate, can lead to this COP 28 reinforcing the importance of solidarity among all, so that the goals recommended both at this COP and in previous ones be faced with more commitment and more determination, in order to achieve them within the deadlines that we have been setting for ourselves.

Thank you for your attention!