



**Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**  
820 2nd Avenue, 12th Floor, Diplomatic Center, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 861-5656 Fax: (212) 861-9295

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MR. ISMAEL A. GASPAR MARTINS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE  
OF THE ZONE OF PEACE & COOPERATION  
OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC**

**AT THE 107<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**Check Against Delivery**

**Madam President,**

**As we approach the conclusion of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, please accept my delegation's utmost appreciation for your hard work and able leadership during this session. Under your leadership, the General-Assembly engaged in difficult but necessary discussions on the items in its agenda. Such was the case with regards to reforming ECOSOC, the increasing threat of climate change, the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs, and the difficult issues of reforming the Security Council and System Wide Coherence. While for some of these issues we must remain engaged, your stewardship of the General Assembly reignited the discussions when some thought that it was time to quit. Your innovative approach and persistent optimism has brought us closer to making the necessary decisions to revamp the organization with a view to improving its effectiveness and responsiveness to the challenges of today and tomorrow.**

**Madam President,**

**I take the floor in my capacity as chair of the Permanent Committee of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic. It is my privilege and honour to introduce draft resolution A/61/L11, under agenda item 16 entitled Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic.**

**As the distinguished delegates may recall, little over two decades ago, the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution A/Res/41/11, declared the South Atlantic a Zone of Peace and Cooperation among its members: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo and Uruguay. Today, the Zone is an effective, interregional mechanism for cooperation in the areas of development, peace and security among its 24 member states.**

In the area of development, members of the Zone are committed to contributing to the eradication of poverty through the establishment of partnerships for sustainable development, trade, investment and tourism by increasing the exchange of knowledge and technology; promoting closer ties among business enterprises; promoting cooperation in the fields of science, technology and human resources; further developing transportation and communication and promoting greater interaction among the civil societies of its members.

In the areas of crime prevention and combating drug trafficking, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime, including piracy, members of the Zone are committed to cooperate including for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations Programmes of Action and by ensuring the exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned related to the reinforcement of border security, arms control policies and systems.

While recognizing the United Nations primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the

members of the Zone are also committed to cooperating in the areas of Peace, Stability and Security, including Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding within the Zone. This cooperation is geared towards improving the capacity of Zone members to participate and engage in peacebuilding and peace support operations by increasing cooperation with the international community and among the members of the Zone on issues such as capacity building, logistics and information exchange, as well as by promoting the use of existing training schools and the international and regional peacekeeping training centers.

Furthermore, the members of the Zone are also engaged in the area of scientific research environment and marine issues, with a view to strengthening human and institutional capacities for the protection and responsible management of their marine resources.

Madam President,

The introduction of this draft resolution comes on the heels of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Zone, held in Luanda on the 18th and 19th of June in which its members adopted the Luanda

Declaration and an action oriented Plan of Action. These documents are available to the membership as document A/61/1019.

The draft resolution before you is the result of an inclusive constructive dialogue and represents the consensus reached in open and transparent informal consultations to which the entire membership was welcomed. The resolution welcomes the holding of the sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Zone and takes note with appreciation of the adoption of the Luanda Declaration and Plan of Action. Furthermore, it requests relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations System and invites relevant partners, including the international financial institutions to render all appropriate assistance that states members of the Zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank member states for their participation in the consultation process and, in particular,

**those that co-sponsored this draft. It is my expectation that this draft resolution will meet the consent of all member states.**

**Thank you, Madam President.**