



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
NATIONAL DEFENSE**

5TH MEETING ON UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

5-6 DECEMBER 2023

- Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Head of Delegations
- Distinguished Delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset allow me to thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to congratulate the Authorities of Ghana, on behalf of the Government of Angola for organizing this Ministerial Meeting. I also take this opportunity to thank for the hospitality and warm welcoming accorded to me and my delegations in this beautiful city of Accra.

Excellencies,

Over the decades, the United Nations has helped to put an end to numerous conflicts through the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility, under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard, the preventive diplomacy, fostering and maintaining peace, should remain as top priority at the international agenda.

Excellencies,

This Ministerial Meeting is taking place in a crucial time when the world is facing unprecedented challenges to keep international security and stability. The maintenance of peace and the international security remains one of the key principles for the establishment of the United Nations and the peacekeeping Operations were created with purpose of protect civilians during the armed conflicts and the post-conflicts

In recent years, Peacekeeping Missions have been taking place in an increasingly complex, multifaceted, and challenging

environments, requiring the continuous adjustments of the peace keepers to the new operational environment.

In this regard, the combining efforts to find peaceful and lasting solutions to the conflicts facing the world, must remain our top priority. Peacebuilding missions, including mediation, preventive diplomacy, and other actions must also remain at the top of our multilateral agenda.

This Meeting is therefore a great opportunity to discuss and analyze in greater depth and scope, the modalities for the improvement of the operations mechanisms of the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions considering the current conflicts.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Angola advocates the peaceful settlements of disputes and preventive diplomacy as a mechanism for conflict resolution. Therefore, and the Peacekeeping Operations play a crucial role in this process. We believe the effective protection of civilians is extremely important to build trust and legitimacy among peacekeeping missions, the Host country, civilians and the United Nations.

In this context, we believe that the Peacekeeping Missions, should be equipped with the technological means for the improvement of their performance on the ground, receive adequate training and equipment for a better mobility and more effective early warning response system. The personnel should benefit from mental healthcare before, during and after deployments in order to prevent suicide, depression and other psychosomatic illness.

Likewise, we must also encourage and promote the gender equality and inclusive policies for women and youth to ensure their full and equal participation in Peacekeeping Operations and peacebuilding Missions, as well as in the development processes and democratic consolidation of States.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Angola has been offering its contribution for regional peace and stability, including the participation in short-term peace operations, such as the Regional Peace Support Operations within the framework of SADC Stand By Forces namely the SADC preventive Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL) 2017-2018 and the current SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), as well as the participation of National Police Staff in the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

Angola approved in 2021, the Law N° 15/21, which allows the deployment of military staff and militarized forces in the framework of humanitarian Operations, peace missions and support operations in response to the international commitments assumed by the State.

Although Angola is at its early stage of integrating the United Nations Peace Operations, it has been working with the Department of Peace Operations to act more effectively to achieve the following:

1. Preparation of a small contingent of troops for future deployments;
2. Preparation of air forces , particularly helicopters;
3. Selection of officers for training, capacity building and adjustment with the multilateral environment;

4. Technical Education and training;

5. Support for the operationalization of the Peacekeeping Operations Center.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate that Angola continuous to advocate for dialogue as the mean to solve conflicts, as well addressing their root causes in order to find lasting and sustainable solutions. We believe that the new Agenda for Peace, proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General, will provide an opportunity to improve the capacity and the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in a context marked by digital transformation.

I thank you.