

DIPLONEWS

Monthly Edition N° 01 - January -2024

ANGOLA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING COOPERATION TIES



PRESIDENT JOÃO LOURENÇO ATTENDS INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF DRC FÉLIX TSHISEKEDI

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H.E Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, re-elected President of the DRC



Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, who ran for his re-election in last December's polls and won by a landslide margin, was sworn-in on 20 January as President of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The President of the Republic of Angola, **João Lourenço**, witnessed the event in Kinshasa, which was also attended by dozens of official delegations representing various countries, many of them led by Heads of State and Government.

The ceremony took place in Kinshasa's largest sports venue, the Martyrs' Stadium, and brought together tens of thousands of people, who completely filled the space.

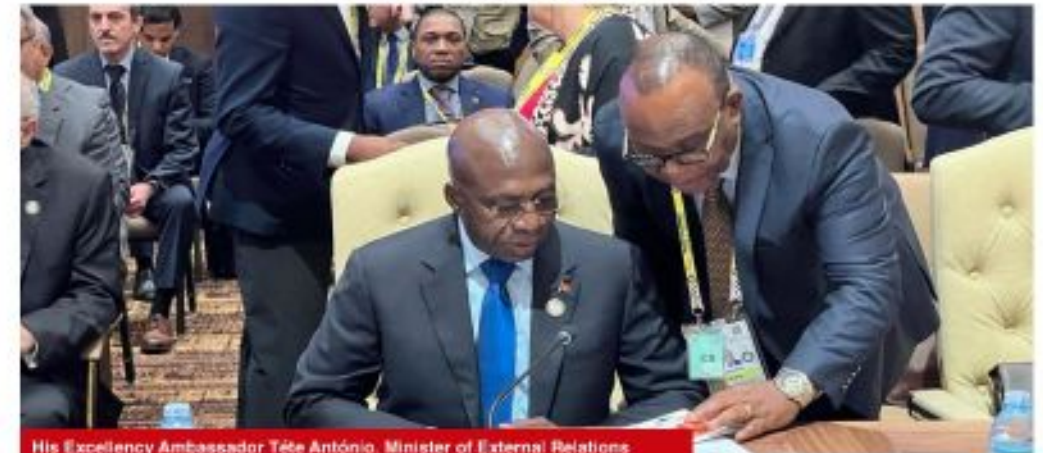
Félix Tshisekedi was re-elected for a second five-year term in the general elections held on 20 and 21 December 2023, winning 73.34% of the votes, ahead of Moïse Katumbi, former governor of Katanga (18.08% of the votes), Martin Fayulu, main opposition leader (5.33%) and Adolphe Muzito (1.12%).

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is located in Central Africa, bordering nine countries and is the second largest country on the continent in terms of land area. Its capital is Kinshasa, located in the far west of the country along the Congo River.

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SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



His Excellency Ambassador Tête António, Minister of External Relations

The city of Kampala, Republic of Uganda, hosted on 19 January the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The event, which took place at the Muryonyo Conference Centre, brought together more than two dozen heads of state and government from the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as states and international organisations with observer status.

Among the Heads of State were Their Excellencies **Yoweri K. Museveni**, host President, **Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, President of Equatorial Guinea, **Ismail Omar Guelleh**, President of Djibouti, **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of Ghana, **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, President of Sri Lanka, **Emmerson D. Mnangagwa**, President of Zimbabwe and **Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi**, President of Botswana.

The event was also attended by Their Excellencies **William Ruto**, President of Kenya, **Faure Essozima Gnassingbe**, President of Togo, **Faustin Archange Touadera**, President of the Central African Republic, **Evariste Ndayishimiye**, President of Burundi, **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**, President of Somalia, and **Abiy Ahmed**, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

His Excellency **João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, was represented at

the Summit by His Excellency **Tête António**, Minister of External Relations, who was accompanied by a delegation of senior officials from his department.

The opening session of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was chaired by His Excellency **Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, President of the Republic of Uganda, who took over the Chairpersonship of the Organisation for a period of three years (2024-2026).

During the work, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement countries took note of the Report of the Ministerial Meeting, held on 17 and 18 January, and analysed the drafts of the **Kampala Declaration and the Non-Aligned Movement Declaration on the situation in Palestine**.

Also on the agenda was a debate on the central theme of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence", and a special session for the admission of new members.

Founded on 1 September 1961 in Belgrade, Serbia (former Yugoslavia) the **Non-Aligned Movement** is a concert of nations made up of 120 countries, 20 Observer States and 10 International Organisations, representing 4.46 billion people.

Its main objectives are the promotion of friendly relations between countries, the defence of the peaceful resolution of international disputes, and the protection of human rights and the environment.



ANGOLA ATTENDS 3RD G-77 PLUS CHINA SUMMIT IN KAMPALA

H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda



His Excellency Ambassador **Téte António**, Minister of External Relations, represented on 21 January in Kampala, Uganda. His Excellency **João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, at the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the G-77 plus China.

The meeting, which took place under the motto "**Leave No One Behind**", began with welcome remarks from His Excellency **Yoweri Museveni**, President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the G-77 plus China, who, on the occasion, received the symbols of the Group's annual chairpersonship from His Excellency **Salvador Valdés Mesa**, Vice-President of the Republic of Cuba, the outgoing chairperson of the group.

The moment was also reserved for other speeches, including by His Excellency **António Guterres**, UN Secretary General, who emphasised the importance of the Group of 77+China in the context of the United Nations, as it is the main promoter of South-South cooperation, and H.E. **Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, host country of the 2nd South Summit, and **Liu Guozhong**, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

The 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the G-77 plus China, which closed on 22 January in the Ugandan capital, adopted the organisation's working agenda, the Report of the Chairperson of the Senior Officials Meeting and the Final Document of the Third Southern Summit.

The 3rd Southern Summit of the Group of 77+China aims to give new impetus to cooperation between the 134 member states of the Group of 77+China in a more

competitive world, with a view to boosting South-South cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, sustainable development, climate change, poverty eradication and the digital economy.

The Group of 77 (G-77) was created on 15 June 1964 by 77 developing countries that signed the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, the largest coalition of developing countries in the United Nations, which allows the Group greater capacity for the South to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and strengthen its joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the UN system, including South-South co-operation.

This Summit welcomed several Heads of State and Government and leaders of International Organisations, in particular Their Excellencies **Mogwele Eric Keabetswe Masisi**, President of the Republic of Botswana, **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, **Faustin Archange Touadera**, President of the Central African Republic and **António Guterres**, Secretary General of the United Nations.

Their Excellencies **Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalili**, President of the Council of State of the Sultanate of Oman, **Ralph Gonsalves**, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, **Mohamed Ennadir Larbaoui**, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, **Russel Mmiso Dlamini**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini, **Eduard Ngirente**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, **Philips Mark Anthony**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Guyana and **Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa**, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.



ANGOLA AND USA DETERMINED TO STRENGTHENING COOPERATION TIES



Angola and the United States of America on 25 January in Luanda pledged to continue strengthening political, diplomatic and economic-business cooperation ties, with a view to the well-being of both States and peoples.

This guarantee was made by His Excellency Ambassador **Téte António**, Minister of External Relations, during a joint press conference with His Excellency **Antony Blinken**, Secretary of State of the United States of America, during his 24-hour official visit to the Southern African country.

The head of Angolan diplomacy pointed to the good climate in Angola-US relations, resulting from the commitment of the diplomats of both states.

Answering questions from journalists, the head of MIREX said that Angola has plenty of room for strengthening cooperation with the United States of America and other international players, due to the numerous needs that the country faces.

For his part, His Excellency **Antony Blinken**, US Secretary of State, emphasised his government's willingness to continue to institutionally sponsor political stability, security, good governance and the safeguarding of human rights for Angolans, the Southern Region and the African continent.

His Excellency **Antony Blinken** told journalists that Angola is and will continue to be an important and unavoidable player in maintaining peace and stability in Africa, but above all in the Southern and Central regions, through its leading role in SADC, ECCAS and ICGLR.

The joint press conference organised by the Angolan Ministry of External Relations and the Embassy of the United States of America in Angola took place on 25 January at the headquarters of the Angolan diplomacy and was attended by diplomats and senior officials from the Angolan state and the United States of America.

His Excellency **Antony Blinken**'s visit to Angola is part of a tour that the US Secretary of State is making to some African countries, namely Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Cape Verde.

In the countries he visited, the head of US diplomacy emphasised how the US is investing in infrastructure in Africa to boost bilateral trade and create jobs at home and on the continent.

Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** shared the US' desire to help Africa compete in the global market and showed how this giant has accelerated the partnership since the US-Africa Leaders' Summit in key areas including climate, food and health security.



MULTISECTOR DELEGATIONS SEEK SOLUTIONS TO ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA BORDER DISPUTE



Delegations from Angola and Namibia met on 12 January in Ondjiva, the capital of the Angolan southern province of Cunene, to find mechanisms for resolving the dispute caused by the illegal occupation of Angolan territory by farmers from the neighbouring Republic of Namibia.

The official talks between the two countries' multi-sector delegations were led by Their Excellencies Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia.

This session followed the Bilateral Meeting

held in Luanda in October last year to reaffirm the importance of peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness, particularly with regard to Namibian farmers who graze their cattle illegally in Angola.

In his speech, His Excellency Ambassador Tété António thanked and praised the role of his Namibian counterpart for the collaboration and leadership shown in the search for a harmonious resolution of the dispute for the benefit of the two countries, peoples and above all the cross-border communities.

His Excellency Ambassador Tété António emphasised the excellent historical relations of brotherhood, blood and even family ties between



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Angola and Namibia, which must be preserved and strengthened.

For her part, Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, emphasised that the meeting was a clear statement of intent of the two governments' commitment to tackling common challenges and improving the livelihoods of the populations of the two neighbouring countries.

She reiterated Namibia's appreciation to the Angolan government for allowing Namibian farmers to graze their cattle on Angolan territory due to the severe drought and lack of available grazing land in the northern regions of Namibia as a result of climate change.

For the Namibian leader, this goodwill is also a clear demonstration of the strong bonds of friendship, solidarity and supreme sacrifice that continue to happily characterise the warm and ex-



cellent bilateral relations between Angola and Namibia.

Furthermore, she emphasised that the goodwill of the Angolan authorities does not mean that the activities of Namibian farmers should violate the laws of the Republic of Angola, in the same way that Angolan citizens need to comply with the laws of Namibia on its territory.

As a sovereign state, Angola, within its territory, retains the right to enforce its laws and regulate the activities of all Namibians, including Namibian farmers who have been authorised to graze in Angola.

As a state that fully subscribes to the sacrosanct principle of respect for the territorial integrity of other states, the Namibian government's position is categorically clear, as it does not tolerate the behaviour that Namibians have adopted in relation to non-compliance with the laws of the Republic of Angola, she clarified.



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HEAD OF ANGOLAN DIPLOMACY VISITS OUKWANYAMA QUEEN IN NAMIBIA



His Excellency Ambassador **Téte António**, Minister of External Relations, on 14 January in **Helao Nafidi**, in the Namibian province of **Ohangwena** paid a courtesy visit to Her Majesty **Meekulu Martha Mwadinomho Kristian yaNelumbu**, Queen of Oukwanyama in the neighbouring country.

The courtesy meeting with the **Queen of Oukwanyama**, of the Namibian **Ohangwena** Region, took place on the sidelines of a joint visit that Their Excellencies Ambassador **Téte António**, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, made to the provinces of **Cunene**, in Angola, and **Ohangwena**, in Namibia.

The head of Angolan diplomacy went to the **Queen of Oukwanyama** Palace accompanied by His Excellencies **João Ernesto dos Santos "Liberdade"**, Minister of National Defence, Former Combatants and Veterans of the Homeland, **Eugénio César Laborinho**, Minister of the Interior, **João Pereira Massano**, Head of the Military Intelligence and Security Service; **Gerdina Didalehwa**, Governor of Cunene Province, **Márcio de Jesus Lopes Daniel**, Secretary of State for Local Authorities; **André de Jesus Moda**, Secretary of State for Forestry; **Iury Valler de Sousa Santos**, Secretary of State for the Environment; **Arnaldo Manuel Carlos**, General Commander of the Angolan National

Police and **Jovelina Imperial e Costa**, Angolan Ambassador to Namibia.

On the Namibian side, the meeting was attended by Their Excellencies **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, **Frans Kapoff**, Minister of Defence and Homeland Veterans, **Christine Hoebes**, Minister of the Presidency, **Erastus Uutoni**, Minister of Urban and Rural Development, **Anna Shiweda**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Agrarian Reform, **Lucia Witbooi**, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Protection and Security, **Sebastien Ndeitunga**, Governor of the Ohangwena Region, **Patrick Nandago**, Namibian Ambassador to Angola, and **Joseph S. Shikongo**, Namibia's Inspector General of Police.

Born in 1930, Her Majesty **Meekulu Martha Mwadinomho Kristian yaNelumbu** belongs to the dynasty of the **Ovambo** people in northern Namibia.

Her Majesty **Meekulu Martha Mwadinomho Kristian yaNelumbu**, was crowned in **November 2005**, succeeding her cousin **Kornelius Mwetupunga Shelungu**, becoming the **first woman** to head this traditional authority.

Queen Mwadinomho lives in the royal residence in **Omhedi**. Over the years, she has given shelter to vulnerable children. In 2023, there were more than 60 vulnerable children on her property.



ANGOLA AND TANZANIA HOLD 2ND SESSION OF BILATERAL JOINT COMMISSION



The Tanzanian resort town of Zanzibar hosted on 16 January, the 2nd session of the Joint Bilateral Commission between the Republic of Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania.

This meeting took place 35 years after the first session held in Dar-es-Salaam, where the two countries laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a mechanism for bilateral consultations at diplomatic level, in order to promote and extend economic, social, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation and to set up a bilateral commission between the two SADC member countries.

This 2nd Session of the Bilateral Joint Commission was led by Their Excellencies Ambassador Tête António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and January Yusuf Makamba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Eastern Community of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The session of the Bilateral Joint Commission was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting held from 14 to 15 January 2024.

Ambassador Said Shaibu Mussa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of East Africa, led the Tanzanian delegation, while Ambassador Carlos Cruz de Lemos Sardinha Dias, Director for International Cooperation at the Minis-



try of External Relations, headed the Angolan delegation.

The two sides held a constructive and productive dialogue, during which the Ministers applauded the excellent bonds of friendship and solidarity between the two countries.

They also congratulated Their Excellencies Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, for their leadership in promoting existing ties.

The parties expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in the negotiations on various areas of cooperation since the signing of the General Cooperation Agreement on 16 February 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the sidelines of the Executive Council of the African Union.

During the session, the parties identified new areas of sectoral cooperation, as well as actions and projects to be developed in key sectors of common interest.

In this context, they agreed to establish cooperation and partnership in the fields of political consultations, defence, diplomacy, security, justice and legal affairs, economic development, finance, agriculture and livestock, trade, tourism, industry, investment, mineral resources, oil and gas, infrastructure development, transport, information and communication technologies, science, health, education, social security, gender equality and vulnerable groups, as well as sport and culture.

The United Republic of Tanzania is a country in East Africa, bordered to the north by Uganda and Kenya, to the east by the Indian Ocean, to the south by Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia and to the west by the Democratic Republic of Congo (exclusively lake borders, across Lake Tanganyika), Burundi and Rwanda.

It has a population of 65.6 million (2023 estimate), and a land area of 947,300 square kilometres.

The political and diplomatic cooperation between the Republic of Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania is good and is based on historical ties of friendship, fraternity and solidarity forged in the struggle for the liberation of the African peoples.



ANGOLA AND TANZANIA SIGN FOUR MEMORANDA



As part of the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania, four (4) legal instruments were signed on 16 January in Zanzibar to deepen exchanges between the two SADC member countries.

These are the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Oil and Gas, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Visa Exemption for Diplomatic, Service/Official Passports, the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Health and the Verbal Process of the 2nd Session of the Bilateral Joint Commission between the Republic of Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania.

His Excellency Ambassador Tête António signed all the Agreements on behalf of the Republic of Angola, while Their Excellencies January Yusuf Makamba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Eastern Communities, and Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of Health, for the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Oil and Gas Cooperation aims to establish a general framework for encouraging mutual co-operation in the field of oil and gas, as well as sharing knowledge and experience in the management and development of the oil and gas industry.

This Memorandum also aims to promote cooperation and collaboration in the fields of oil and gas exploration, strengthen the technical capacity of national staff in



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the field of the oil and gas industry, as well as the exchange of information, data and business opportunities related to the oil and gas industry.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the area of Visa Exemption for Diplomatic, Service/Official Passports aims to exempt visa requirements between citizens of the two countries who hold these passports, facilitating their travelling.

The Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Health aims to strengthen cooperation and capacities in the training of human resources, including specialised services.

It also aims to exchange expertise in organ and tissue transplantation, as well as in the field of assisted reproductive technologies, to create resilient and sustainable systems for reproductive, maternal and infant mortality through best practices, and to promote cooperation in research and innovation in the field of public health.

The Memorandum also aims to exchange experiences and practices in vector and malaria control, develop an exchange programme in the fields of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, as well as the production of orthotics and prostheses.

The signing of these four (4) instruments marks the turning of another page in bilateral relations between the two countries, thus doing justice to the history that dates back to the national liberation struggle.

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**IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS AMONG MIREX'S
MAIN CHALLENGES FOR 2024**



H.E. Tété António
Minister of External Relations

Improving working and social conditions, training human resources and rationalising resources and financial assets are some of the main management challenges for 2024 at the Ministry of External Relations.

The information was provided by His Excellency Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations, while receiving New Year's greetings on 11 January at the headquarters of Angolan diplomacy in downtown Luanda.

His Excellency Minister Tété António said that for this year, without neglecting the bilateral agenda, MIREX would continue to maximise its action towards the country's chairpersonships in SADC and OACPS, ensuring the presidency of the Republic of Angola in the African Union, as well as a seat on its Peace and Security Council.

Addressing his direct collaborators (Secretaries of State, Directors, Ambassadors, Heads of Departments and Consultants), the head of Angolan



diplomacy invited them to maintain the same spirit of selflessness in fulfilling their responsibilities, especially in the sub-regional and regional organisations in which Angola is a member, such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

Minister Tété António also looked at the expansion of Angola's position in Asia, with the opening of new diplomatic missions in Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor, results of the active diplomacy that took place last year.

In the political-administrative chapter, Minister Tété António assured that efforts are being made to extend the process of issuing identity cards for Angolan citizens in Diaspora, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the aim of which is to strengthen the action of the associative movement within the community to improve access to national identification documents for Angolan citizens abroad.

Regarding the internal life of the Ministry, the Head of Angolan Diplomacy said that the year 2023 served to realign the new directive structure of MIREX, resulting from the Organic Statute in force, the implementation of which requires a joint effort by the collective of workers in this Ministerial Department.

In this context, a review and update of administrative, financial, property and human resources procedures is underway in order to implement some necessary internal reforms, namely: continuing the process of regularising the categories of officials, both in the general and special careers; improving the staff rotation process; combating some duly identified incorrect practices, among other measures.

It is also a challenge for the new year to finalise the Strategy for the Insertion of Angolan Staff in International and Regional Organisations; to draw up strategies to improve the current system of access to health services for civil servants and their



dependents; to revise the system for recharging shopping cards to allow greater flexibility for users; as well as to continue discussions with commercial banks with a view to obtaining personal credit facilities.

Minister Tété António ended his speech by calling on everyone, at central level and in MIREX's external bodies, to manage the scarce resources made available by the government, given the current situation and therefore the objective conditions the country is experiencing.

The New Year's Greetings Ceremony brought together, in the "Paulo Teixeira Jorge" Great Hall, the Secretaries of State for External Relations, Esmeralda Mendonça; for International Cooperation and Angolan Communities, Domingos Custódio Vieira Lopes; and for Administration, Finance and Asset, Maria Auxiliadora Pascoal Ramiro; Directors, Angolan Ambassadors, Heads of Departments and Consultants.



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ANGOLA AND SOMALIA SEEK TO STRENGTHEN DIPLOMATIC TIES



His Excellency Ambassador **Téte António**, Minister of External Relations, received on 18 January in Kampala His Excellency **Ali Mohamed Omar**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The two entities met at the **Munyonyo Conference Centre**, the venue for the **19th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**.

Accompanied by His Excellency **Omar M. Mohamed**, the East African country's Foreign Minister expressed his country's intention to strengthen relations with Angola, especially in the **political-diplomatic, economic,**

commercial and education sectors. According to the head of Somali diplomacy, his government plans to **open a Consulate General in the Republic of Angola** in order to facilitate consular assistance for its citizens, who form a large community in that Southern African country.

Located on the eastern edge of the African continent, the **Federal Republic of Somalia** has an **estimated population of 18 million** and agriculture is its main economic activity, accounting for **40 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **65 per cent of exports.**

The country borders **Ethiopia** to the west, **Djibouti** to the north-west and **Kenya** to the south.



ANGOLA AND INDIA ASSESS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



The state of **bilateral cooperation** in the most varied areas of **political-diplomatic, economic and commercial** life between Angola and India was assessed on 18 January in Kampala between Their Excellencies Ambassador **Téte António**, Minister of External Relations, and **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India.

The two officials met in the capital city of Kampala, on the sidelines of the **19th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, which took place on 19 January.

During the meeting, Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** said that **India wanted to see its cooperation with Angola strengthened**, especially in the areas of the **pharmaceutical industry, tourism, food security, health, oil and gas, education, basic sanitation and digital technology.**

He also said that his government was **flattered** that Angola, in the voice of His Excellency President **João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, considered this Asian country to be an **"important strategic partner"**.

Lastly, he referred to the elections to the **United Nations Security Council** for the period 2028-2029, where his government **aspires to a seat as non-permanent member.**

For his part, His Excellency Ambassador **Téte António** thanked his Indian counterpart for the meeting and invited that country to participate in the **diversification of the Angolan economy**, highlighting the business

opportunities that Angola offers. Minister **Téte António** spoke about the **National Development Plans**, with emphasis on **Planagrão, Planapesca and Planapeçuário**, Angola's development plans for the areas of agriculture, fisheries and farming. The **Republic of India**, located in South Asia, is the seventh largest by area and the most populous in the world as of June 2023.

India's population has grown from **361 million** in 1951 to almost **1.4 billion** in 2022. During the same period, its nominal per capita income increased from **64 dollars** a year to **2,601 dollars** and its literacy rate from **16.6 per cent** to **74 per cent.**

According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, the Indian economy in 2022 was nominally worth **3.46 trillion dollars**; it was the fifth largest economy in terms of **market exchange rates** and is, at around **11.6 billion dollars**, the third largest in terms of **Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).**

With its average annual **GDP growth rate of 5.8 per cent** over the last two decades, and reaching **6.1 per cent** during 2011-2012, **India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world.**

The main agricultural products include **rice, wheat, oilseeds, cotton, jute, tea, sugar cane and potatoes.** Major industries include **textiles, telecommunications, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food processing, steel, transport equipment, cement, mining, oil, machinery and software.**



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS RECEIVES NEW UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE



Her Excellency **Esmeralda Mendonça**, Secretary of State for External Relations, on **19 January**, in Luanda received the **Copies of Credentials** from the new Resident Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Angola, **Emmanuelle Nathalie Mitte**.

During the act of handing over and receiving this **protocol instrument**, the newly appointed UNHCR representative expressed her gratitude for the warm

welcome and expressed her appreciation to the Angolan government for trusting in her appointment.

The meeting also served to **discuss relations** between the Republic of Angola and this specialised agency of the **United Nations**, highlighting the friendly nature of these ties.

The Secretary of State welcomed the new UNHCR representative and hoped that she would continue the excellent work being carried out by her predecessors, as well as reiterating the Angolan government's willingness to continue improving bilateral cooperation.

This meeting signals a new chapter in **cooperation between Angola and the UNHCR**, strengthening ties aimed at guaranteeing a safe and dignified environment for those seeking refuge in Angolan territory.

Emmanuelle Nathalie Mitte now takes up the position of UNHCR Resident Representative in Angola, succeeding **Vito Trani**.

The UNHCR in Angola supports around 57,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from the **DRC, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Eritrea**.

It works with the Angolan government to **develop coherent policies, guarantee access to territory, offer humanitarian assistance and promote the inclusion of refugees in the country's development plans and key programmes**.

The UNHCR has been established in Luanda, Angola, for over 40 years, with a Field Office in Dundo since 2017.

ANGOLA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ANALYSE INCREASING BILATERAL COOPERATION



Her Excellency Ambassador **Esmeralda Mendonça**, Secretary of State for External Relations, on **18 January** in Luanda, received His Excellency **Salem Ali Alshamsi**, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Republic of Angola.

The meeting, held at the **headquarters of the Angolan diplomatic service** (in Mutamba), served as an opportunity for the two personalities to discuss issues related to **increasing bilateral cooperation** between the Republic of Angola and the United Arab Emirates.

On the occasion, the two entities analysed the possibility of **signing some legal instruments**, namely the **Draft Global Economic Partnership Agreement** and the **Cooperation Agreement in the field of Defence and Technical-Military** between the Ministry of National Defence, Former Combatants and Veterans of the Homeland of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Defence of the United Arab Emirates.

The audience granted to the Ambassador also served to devote particular attention to the preparation of the visit of His Excellency **Sheikh Shakhboot Al Nahyan**, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates to the Republic of Angola, scheduled for this month.

ANGOLA FORMALISES REQUEST FOR EXPLANATIONS FROM GABON AFTER INCIDENT WITH ECCAS CHAIRPERSON



The Ministry of External Relations on **19 January** summoned the **Chargé d'Affaires** of the Embassy of the Republic of Gabon in Angola, **Wilfrid Ndundji Mundungue**, to ask for explanations regarding the unusual event that took place in his country against the Chairperson of the Economic Commission of the Central African States (ECCAS), His Excellency **Gilberto da Piedade Verissimo**, of Angolan nationality.

The **Chargé d'Affaires** of the Gabonese Diplomatic Mission in Angola went to the Angolan diplomatic headquarters following an act of **vandalisation at gunpoint** by Gabonese citizens at the residence of the Chairperson of the Commission, whose headquarters are based in Libreville, Gabon.

The Angolan authorities were notified, on **18 January**, of the unusual event, carried out by armed men (some of whom were wearing the uniform of the Gabo-

nese armed forces), who arbitrarily broke into the official residence of the **ECCAS Commission Chairperson**.

According to reports, the invaders psychologically harassed the **Chairperson of the ECCAS Commission** and his assistant, who were inside the residence.

In light of this serious diplomatic incident, Her Excellency **Esmeralda Mendonça**, Secretary of State for External Relations, representing His Excellency **Tête António**, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, expressed her deep displeasure at what had happened, vehemently repudiated the incident and demanded plausible explanations from the Gabonese authorities about the real motivations and intentions of Gabonese citizens against Angolan authorities.

Secretary of State **Esmeralda Mendonça** also called, through the **Chargé d'Affaires**, for severe measures to be taken against the perpetrators of such an act, which jeopardised the security and physical integrity of the entities of that sub-regional organisation, which exercise their legitimate statutory mandate in the country that holds the headquarters of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The **Final Communiqué of the 5th Extraordinary Session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS**, within the framework of the Council for Peace and Security in Africa (COPAX), expressly urged the Government of the Gabonese Republic to continue to guarantee security conditions for the Chairperson of the Commission, its members and all its staff.

Under the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations** of 18 April 1961, the revised Community Treaty of 18 December 2019, the **Convention on Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities of ECCAS** of 28 August 1987, the **Headquarters Agreement between ECCAS and the Government of the Gabonese Republic** of 12 January 1986 and other relevant conventions and legal texts, Community officials and their official and private residences enjoy privileges and immunities.



STRATEGIC MEETING PREPARES AGENDA FOR ANGOLA AND SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE BILATERAL DIALOGUE



A multisectoral consultation meeting aimed at designing a working agenda for the **Angola-Sao Tome and Principe bilateral meeting** was held on **9 January** at the Afonso Van-Dunem "Mbinda" Amphitheatre at MIREX headquarters in Luanda.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency **Domingos Custódio Vieira Lopes**, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Angolan Communities, in his capacity as **Coordinator of the Monitoring Committee for the Verbal Cooperation Process** between the Republic of Angola and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

During the meeting, the members of the commit-

tee monitoring the **Angola-Sao Tome and Principe** verbal cooperation process analysed the advantages of this **inter-state** relationship, both **politically** and in terms of **trade and business**.

The **Monitoring Committee for the Verbal Cooperation Process** between the Republic of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is made up, in addition to MIREX, of the Ministries of **Finance; Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas; Culture and Tourism; Transport; Fisheries and Marine Resources**, the **Angolan Private Investment and Export Promotion Agency (AIPEX)**; and the **Institute for the Management of State Assets and Holdings (IGAPE)**.



SECRETARY OF STATE MARIA RAMIRO CONDUCTS CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH DIPLOMATS FOR INSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS



Following the consultation that has been carried out with the employees of the Central Bodies of the Ministry of External Relations, Her Excellency Maria Auxiliadora Pascoal Ramiro, Secretary of State for Administration, Finance and Assets at MIREX, on 8 January met with the diplomats of this Ministerial Department.

The aim was to listen to their concerns and gather contributions to help mitigate the many bad situations that hamper the smooth running of the Ministry of External Relations.

For around four hours, the head of MIREX's Administrative, Financial and Assets sector was questioned about the criteria for entry and promotion in the special career (diplomatic career), the injustices that have been committed in these processes over the



years, the low salary conditions and other benefits, among other issues.

Similarly, Secretary of State Maria Auxiliadora Ramiro also heard contributions aimed at improving the quality of human resources, providing them with specific and specialised training; the creation of dynamics and experiences capable of providing effective and efficient responses to many of the problems the institution is experiencing.

Her Excellency Maria Auxiliadora Pascoal Ramiro not only took good note of all the ideas put forward by the diplomats, but also showed her commitment to seeing many of the concerns raised resolved.

She said that she was working hard to make the Staff Rotation Plan a reality, to improve salaries and other social conditions, to resolve specific

and duly identified cases of labour injustice, and pledged to continue receiving input on ideas aimed at overcoming the concerns shared at today's meeting and others that cut across the staff of the Ministry of External Relations.

This Monday's meeting is part of the plan of selective and targeted work meetings that Her Excellency the Secretary of State is carrying out at the start of this year, with a view to creating a new dynamic of participatory, active management capable of producing tangible results for the good of the community.

At the end of the meeting, both sides - management and workers - agreed to work together towards a single goal: an institution with dignity to better serve the country. To achieve this, we need to work harder and communicate better.



CONSUL GENERAL OF PORTUGAL ACCREDITED IN BENGUELA, ANGOLA



Her Excellency **Maria Filomena do Rosário Neto Ant6nio**, Director General of the Institute of Angolan Communities Abroad and Consular Services (ICAESC), on 24 January, handed over the **Exequatur** to **Lina Isabel de Castro Mota**, accrediting her as Consul General of Portugal in Benguela and seven other Angolan provinces.

The ceremony to hand over and receive the legal instrument authorizing the new head of the Portuguese Consulate to carry out her duties in Angola took place at the ICAESC offices in Luanda.

As well as Benguela, **Lina Isabel de Castro Mota** will also cover the provinces of **Cuanza-Sul**, **Huambo**, **Bi6**, **Huíla**, **Cunene**, **Namibe** and **Cuando Cubango**.

In addition to the Embassy, the Portuguese Republic has two **Consulates General** in Angola, namely in **Luanda** and **Benguela**.

Lina Isabel de Castro Mota has been a career diplomat since 1995, has a degree in Philosophy from Universidade Nova de Lisboa, is a professor and author of a number of scientific publications.

In her professional career, the new Consul General of Portugal in Benguela, before coming to work in Angola, was Deputy Head of the Portuguese Mission in Warsaw (Poland); Budapest (Hungary); Nairobi (Kenya).

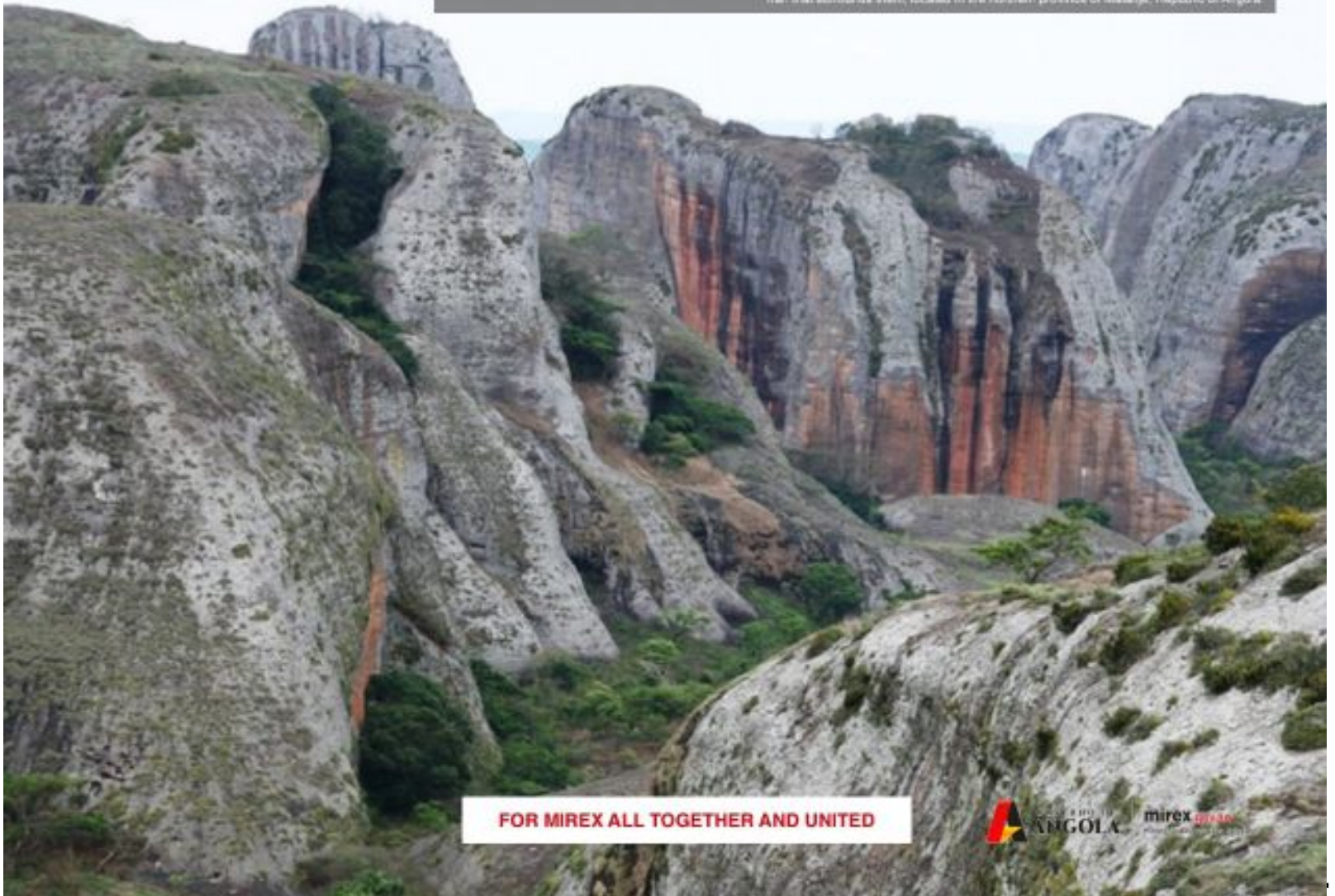
She was also Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in the same country, among other responsibilities in the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Partial view of the city of Benguela, Angola



Black Stones of Pungo Andongo: these are a group of extensive monolithic rock formations, millions of years old, that are high above the savannah that surrounds them, located in the northern province of Malanje, Republic of Angola.



FOR MIREX ALL TOGETHER AND UNITED

