



**ANGOLA REPUBLIC**

**Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa;**

**Mr. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Japan;**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;**

**Distinguished officials of the United Nations, the African Union and the World Bank;**

**- Distinguished Guests;**

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation to be present in this beautiful city of Yokohama and to attend the Seventh Edition of the Tokyo International Summit on African Development.

This International Summit on African Development is an event of great international prestige, especially for African countries facing the challenge of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030, and which have an indispensable partner in Japan to fulfill this important goal. mission.

These UN global goals include actions to eliminate hunger, poverty and ensure that all inhabitants of the earth can benefit from peace and prosperity.

Governments, parliaments, regional and local authorities, universities, research institutes, philanthropic organizations, cooperatives, businesses and other civil society organizations should act as true partners for prosperity and well-being. reach the poorest and most vulnerable.

Speaking of the need to “Accelerate economic transformation and improve the business environment through innovation and private sector involvement”, a topic under discussion, we understand that only true strategic complementarity between the State and the private sector can guarantee that it can be achieved with success the goals of sustainable development.

The State is responsible for regulating and coordinating the entire process of economic and social development.

The private sector is reserved for the engine of economic growth in a competitive environment that leads to the permanent creation of wealth and value efficiently.

To enable the private sector to perform well, the State must create the conditions for the removal of market failures, in particular by combating monopolies and other market imperfections, as well as removing bureaucracy and other unnecessary biases and obstacles from public administration, which may hinder business development.

In order to create the necessary macroeconomic stability conditions for a better business environment, the Angolan Executive is implementing, with the support of the International Monetary Fund, a Program for the stabilization of the Angolan economy.

This program has been able to achieve positive results in terms of fiscal consolidation, lower inflation rates, gradual normalization of the foreign exchange market, as well as stabilization of Treasury bond interest rates and the level of the country's net international reserves.

With the support of the World Bank, we are carrying out a comprehensive Business Environment Improvement Program, which has allowed us to simplify procedures and reduce the time for the various public services provided to the private sector.

Also with the support of the World Bank we are implementing a comprehensive program of privatization of companies and public assets. We are in the process of starting to privatize more than 190 companies and public assets by the year 2022.

With this process of privatization, we intend to promote Angola's economic growth by fostering private investment and increasing employment in the country.

We also intend to contribute to increasing the efficiency of Angolan companies, leading to a gradual reduction of production costs and the practice of more competitive prices, for the benefit of consumers.

With it we also intend to attract international investors who contribute to our economy not only financial capital and advanced technology, but above all the know-how that will allow us to diversify and increase domestic production of goods and services and thereby increase exports.

Corruption is bad for economies and societies around the world. However in some countries of our continent this phenomenon assumes particular proportions.

For many of our countries, corruption is a huge burden on entrepreneurs and society as a whole, as it completely distorts the basic principle of transparency, sound competition and fairness, undervaluing merit and competence.

In view of the detrimental effects of this phenomenon, the Angolan executive and the competent justice organs are taking concrete measures to eliminate corruption and impunity and thus build a true rule of law and a real market economy in Angola. .

We are also implementing measures to combat unfair competition, money laundering, as well as measures to recover assets that were constituted with public resources and illegally transferred to third parties in Angola and abroad.

Our goal, with all these measures, is to build in Angola an economy based on strong and sustained growth, ending our country's heavy dependence on oil as the main export product.

**Dear Lecturers**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

To accelerate economic transformation on our continent, improving the business environment and involving the private sector is not enough, but public or public / private investment in major road, rail, port, power generation and distribution drinking water and telecommunications.

In these areas, we rely heavily on Japan as a partner who can, to our advantage, finance these infrastructure projects, which are extremely important for the development of our countries.

I take this opportunity to call for concrete plans for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to be devised to make this Japan / Africa partnership an important lever for the sustainable development of our countries.

We challenge Japanese entrepreneurs to invest in the most diverse branches of our economies, agriculture, textiles, fisheries, the auto industry, the production of televisions, computers and mobile phones, new and renewable sources of electricity production.

In this visit to Japan, we are accompanied by a range of Angolan business people with whom they can interact and establish possible partnerships.

We thank the Government and the Japanese people in advance for the warm, fraternal and hospitable way our delegations have been received and welcomed since our arrival.

Thanks for listening.