



***Speech by His Excellency João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, at the presentation of greetings from the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Angola / 12 January 2023.***

Your Excellency, Ambassador Piotr Józef Myslimwicz, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions

Excellencies, representatives of International Organizations and other foreign entities accredited in the Republic of Angola

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me and my wife to receive Your Excellencies for this ceremony, which has been interrupted for the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so that we may greet each other on the occasion of this year 2023 that has just begun.

I thank and express my appreciation for the encouraging words addressed to me and, through me, to my compatriots, by Ambassador Piotr Józef Myslimwicz, Dean of the diplomatic corps accredited in Angola.

Your Excellencies have been eyewitnesses to the reforms that have been taking place in recent years in Angola with a view to guaranteeing the fundamental freedoms of citizens, reducing bureaucracy in the civil service, fighting corruption and impunity, diversifying the economy, fostering domestic production of goods and services, reducing imports of essential consumer goods and increasing exports and the supply of jobs.

All this progress is due to the creation of a new business environment, the success achieved in the programme with the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, which increased Angola's credibility with international creditors.

The success is also due to the clear definition of the role of the State in the economy, the importance that this government gives to the private sector of the economy, the programme of privatisation of State assets, the major public investment that has been made in energy and water production and distribution infrastructures, in roads, railways, ports and airports, as well as in

the social sector, with the construction of an important hospital network in the three categories of classification, in education and higher education, with the admission of thousands of professionals in these two sectors.

Also noteworthy are the ongoing actions to combat drought in the south of the country, to combat poverty, to support and promote entrepreneurship, to provide professional training for young people and to distribute free professional kits.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Angolan diplomacy, together with other international actors, has been gaining a new dynamic in today's world, playing an important role in mediation and conflict resolution through dialogue in the Great Lakes Region, Central Africa and SADC.

In compliance with the mandate of the African Union, we continue to develop, together with the community of East African States, important efforts for the pacification

of eastern DRC and the re-establishment of friendly and good neighbourly relations between the DRC and Rwanda, in the spirit of the deliberations of the last summit in Luanda.

Within the framework of SADC, Angola contributes with the projection of community forces and means in the collective effort to fight terrorism and pacify Cabo Delgado in Mozambique.

We welcome the efforts that have been made by the Community of West African States ECOWAS, in the efforts to restore the constitutional normalcy wounded in some member States namely in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso.

As pro tempore President of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries - CPLP, we strongly condemn the assault on the institutions of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary in an attempt to reverse the constitutional order and the legitimacy of power democratically conferred at the ballot box in Brazil.

In those Sunday hours, Brazilian democracy experienced moments of great danger and uncertainty as the events could have developed into a coup d'état. The whole world reacted in unison against this serious attack on democracy, standing in solidarity with the Lula government in respect of the expressed will of the Brazilian people.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to highlight the victory of Africa at the United States of America-Africa Summit, with the announcement that the continent will be represented in the G-20 with dignity, as well as gaining permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council within the framework of the reforms that will be carried out.

These achievements are the result of our long struggle for recognition of how much Africa has contributed to the growth and development of the economies of the great powers, how much more it can contribute to the world economy, to science, culture, sport, world peace and security. Justice is being done and with this we will see a Security Council that better reflects the geopolitical, economic and demographic reality of the 21st century.

The war against Ukraine represents a serious threat to peace and security not only for Europe but globally. It has already caused the greatest energy, food and humanitarian crisis the world has known since the Second World War which, as we know, ended in 1945, that is 78 years ago.

The entire international community is for peace and harmony between peoples, for the peaceful resolution of conflicts between nations. We call for the establishment of a definitive and unconditional ceasefire by Russia, so that the necessary negotiating atmosphere can be created between the parties involved, leading to the construction of a solid and lasting peace on this continent.

Today's reality contrasts with the status and prestige earned by Russia, which together with its allies - the US, UK and France - was the one that freed Europe and the world from the Nazi occupation and threat.

It is time to negotiate and make peace; the world will recognize this step in the right direction of history.

Thank you very much!