



**Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR VIRGILIO MARQUES FARIA
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
MINISTRY OF EXTERMNAL RELATIONS
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2007

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,**

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for your election to the chairmanship of our Committee and ensure our full confidence in your wise and able leadership in achieving the committee goals, including in further strengthening all disarmament machinery.

My congratulations are also extensive to Mr. Sergio Duarte, whose nomination to the post of High Representative for disarmament affairs, we warmly applaud.

I particularly welcome the participation of representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the World Customs Organization.

These international organizations play a crucial role in the implementation process, especially through their practical experience and lessons learned in the areas covered by Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and through their assistance programs to facilitate the implementation of the resolution.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) was indeed a very important step forward in fight against the threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

However, if the implementation of this important resolution is to succeed, we share the view of those countries thinking that international, regional and subregional institutions have an important role to play in assisting developing countries in their implementation efforts.

In this regard, take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate our commitments and support for promoting international stability.

Furthermore, we are convinced that it is important to reinforce the monitoring of the application of the Treaty of Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to move towards a global disarmament process and to discourage the new ongoing arms race.

Mr. President,

Turning now to my own country, I would like to stress that the recently establishment of a National Commission and other legal measures adopted by our National Parliament,

is a clear sign demonstrating the way the Government of Angola is committed to this endeavour.

The illicit traffic and proliferation of small arms and light weapons is also a matter of great international concern, due particularly to its linkage with (to) armed conflicts, political destabilization and international and transnational organized crime.

Angola, as country in post-conflict situation has been following with concern for the increasing of the threat to international peace and security caused by small arms.

In this regard, we consider that illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a matter of international concern that we should face collectively.

Furthermore, being a country heavily affected by landmines, Angola places a high priority on demining, and underlines the importance of the assistance provided by international community, including national and international non-governmental organizations that are engaged in the education and prevention of accidents caused by landmines, that have already affected thousands of people.

Mr. President,

One of the lessons learned from our own experience as a country in post-conflict situation, is the need to have an appropriate mechanism to gather together donors and promote the translation of pledges and political will, into practice.

In this connection, I would like to express our gratitude for the international assistance and we hope that all donors will continue responding positively.

Mr. President, I would like to reiterate that my delegation aligns itself with the African common position with regard to the proliferation and illegal traffic of light weapons, as well as with all international efforts to promote peace and stability including through non-proliferation of nuclear chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

I thank you Mr. President.