



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**AMBASSADOR JOAO IAMBENO GIMOLIECA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 12th October 2022

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NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2022

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and for the work you have done so far to allow us to pursue the Committee's vital work to advance international peace and security.

At a time when the world grapples with numerous challenges to peace and security, multilateralism is crucial to addressing disarmament, non-proliferation and international security in accordance with the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Nuclear weapons pose a growing catastrophic danger to humanity, and if States continue to increase and improve nuclear arsenals our collective security will be in danger. The achievement of the goal of Total Elimination of nuclear weapons depends on the commitment of nuclear-weapon States to dismantle their nuclear weapons.

Resolution 70/34 underscores the importance of the multilateral disarmament effort in the pursuit of a safer world for all and achieving peace and security throughout the world without nuclear weapons. We strongly believe that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons remain the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

We underscore the importance of the continued respect of the inalienable right to Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and in this sense, we stressed that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must continue to play an essential role in promoting dialogue and consultation among States on nuclear safety, and in the provision and promotion of technical support and cooperation, as well as maximizing the use of science and technology for socio-economic development.

Mr. Chair,

We reaffirm the central role of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) in the consolidation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), as well as in their contributions to addressing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation across all regions of the world.

Angola has already signed the Treaty of Pelindaba, which reaffirm the status of Africa as a NWFZ. We believe that strengthening an existing NWFZ and creating a new one is a crucial step towards achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

With the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in 2015, Angola has sent an unequivocal reminder of its commitment to create an African nuclear-free as an essential component of a nuclear-free world.

Mr. Chair,

The use of small arms and light weapons are a sovereign right of States to ensure their self-defense and national security needs. However, the illicit trade of conventional arms and ammunition, their diversion to non-state actors, their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled dissemination in many regions of the world, especially in Africa, have profoundly destabilizing effects, fueling conflicts, violent crimes, and terrorism.

We remains committed to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) In All Its Aspects and welcomes the successful outcome of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8) held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in New York.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude, the challenges we face today in disarmament and non-proliferation are global and critical and require the Member States to have political will and transparency in dealing with international disarmament and security issues. To this end, Angola stands ready to work with the First Committee and all stakeholders to achieve the global disarmament agenda.

Thank you.