



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

Twenty-first Session of the States Parties Conference on the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons
(HAGUE - 28 November to 2 December 2016)

**His Excellency Chairman of the 21 Conference of SP,
Excellency Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In taking the floor for the first time at this important Conference, please allow me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola and the delegation accompanying me, to take this opportunity to welcome His Excellency the Ambassador of Germany, Mr Christoph Israng, as Chairman of the 21 Conference of States Parties and to express our confidence in leading the work of this important conference.

We would like to express our thanks to the ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola -Nicolin for the brilliant form as it conducted the work during the mandate that is now finished.

We would also like to express our thanks to His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its Technical Secretariat, which in a selfless way has sought to find balanced solutions in the face of the increasing challenges that the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose to us and in particular for the support provided to the Republic of Angola in its insertion in the issues of this organization. We congratulate the different working groups for their performance in support of the OPCW.

I would also like to welcome the distinguished representatives of the States Parties to the Convention and the distinguished guests present at this august event.

The Government of the Republic of Angola recognizes the vital place that the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has in the international architecture of Non Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in order to materialize the efforts of the international community for a world free of these Weapons.

The Republic of Angola has recently joined the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, having become the 192nd State Party to this important international instrument, which reflects the commitment of the Angolan government to follow up on this important dossier and the concern for international peace and Security, as fundamental premises for the healthy coexistence between peoples and countries.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates

Angola is currently suffering the consequences of the international economic and financial crisis. Even under these conditions, Angola has fulfilled more than half of the goals set by the United Nations, in the Millennium Development Goals until 2015. These achievements are due first of all to the climate of peace and security that has settled definitively in our country since 2002.

As an African country, Angola encourages ongoing actions under the existing Cooperation Program between OPCW and Africa, within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention, also known as the "Africa Program", with a view to engaging African States Parties towards Implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the African Continent.

Angola is available to cooperate with the Organization and other States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and has made efforts to implement some national measures, notably the creation of the Multisectoral Working Commission in charge for Monitoring and Oversight of Implementation of the International Treaties and Conventions on Weapons and Disarmament.

This Multisectoral Commission it's coordinated by the Ministry of National Defense and comprises different ministerial departments whose activities are directly or indirectly related to the convention. This body is responsible for the creation of the future National Authority for the control of all types of Weapons and Disarmament, whose establishment we foreseen for the beginning of 2017.

As for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, we are in the initial phase of the process and even in this very short time

a lot has been done. Our priority at this stage is in the field of training, as we believe that much can be done if our experts and staff are properly trained, and we welcome and would like to continue to count on the support of the Organization, in particularly its Technical Secretariat.

In the framework of bilateral cooperation, we believe it is important to highlight the existing Assistance and Cooperation Program between Angola and Brazil, the so-called "***Mentorship Program Brazil – Angola***", which under this agreement has allowed the important exchange of experience between Brazilian and Angolan experts, with the support of the OPCW.

In the context of technical assistance under article VII of CWC, Angola accepted with great satisfaction, to host a regional workshop for Legal Drafters and Representatives of National authorities for African Portuguese speaking Countries, to be held in our capital city Luanda from 06 to 09 of December 2016, with the participation of sibling countries of Guinea - Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and S. Tomé and Príncipe. From this Tribune, we would like encourage the participation of the sibling countries and ensure that they will be very welcome.

During the next year we will be celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the OPCW. Angola, to commemorate this date, will develop a wide journey of education and awareness, with numerous events, in order to highlight the importance of CWC as a central instrument in the consolidation of peace and international security.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates

The Republic of Angola has been supporting the various initiatives leading to the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and other types of non-Conventional weapons, which is why it is a State Party to other relevant international legal instruments such as the Bacteriological and Biological Weapons Convention and the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, just to mention but a few and is now finalizing the process of ratification of other important Treaties and Conventions.

With regard to the universalization of the Convention, we recognize that much has been done by the Organization and the States Parties, but we must continue to encourage other States that have not yet done so to do so briefly and, work in view for the quick implementation of the Convention domestically, especially with the current international situation marked by increased conflict and the possibility of the use of chemical weapons by terrorists and other non-state organizations.

The Republic of Angola supports the statements of the African Groups, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China for this great Conference.

Finally, the Republic of Angola, in the one of the newest Member States Parties, hopes that this meeting will yield valuable contributions and that important recommendations be adopted.

We take this opportunity to underline the need for greater exchange of information and technical assistance in particular in the developing countries.

Thank you