



The Republic of Angola

**STATEMENT DELIVERED  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOÃO  
MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ANGOLA,  
AT THE  
2<sup>nd</sup> UNITED NATIONS OCEANS  
CONFERENCE**

Lisbon 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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Your Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic,

Your Excellency Uhuru Muiga Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya,

Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellencies, Presidents, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency Abdulla Shahid, President of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council,

Honorable Heads of Delegation and International Partners,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I participate in this 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Conference dedicated to the Oceans, during which we will have the opportunity to address all aspects related to this theme and seek to understand the evolution that has occurred since the previous event and, in view of that, we will plan future actions to collectively take care of this common good.

This is yet another opportunity to review everything we have done to ensure that we meet the goals set by the United Nations in terms of reducing marine pollution, protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, decrease sea acidification, to put an end to overfishing and illegal fishing.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The oceans are not only an important source of wealth for the economies of the countries that bathe them, but they have always played an important role in the mobility of peoples, in the interaction and integration of different cultures, religions, habits and customs of peoples and in trade exchanges between nations.

Heads of State and Government, representatives of the scientific community, the private sector and civil society, at this Summit, will seek to find answers to the growing need to implement new paradigms of sustainable use of the immense resources that the Oceans avail to us, which we have that seek to exploit in an increasingly sustainable way and preserve for future generations.

The oceans constitute the largest biosphere on the planet and they are associated with a set of benefits for humanity, which we must safeguard so that future generations have a better quality of life. The sad scenario that we see today impels us to act with the utmost urgency in order to find solutions that reverse the current trend of seas and oceans pollution and the unregulated exploitation of marine resources.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a time when my country is preparing to hold general elections in the coming weeks, I have decided to come to Lisbon to join the common debate that we will be having here about the oceans, a matter of paramount importance for the survival of humanity. The Angolan Government has included into its National Development Plan, the legal framework for the activities that take place at sea in order to boost the blue economy by reinforcing the supervision and regulation of the use of marine resources.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Angola maintains a relationship with the Atlantic Ocean that forces us to develop initiatives and seek solutions that help its use in ways that protect it and serve the interests of all neighboring countries. It is in light of this perspective that we have been developing actions to extend the limits of our Exclusive Economic Zone, for which we have sought to take the necessary steps with the competent

United Nations commission in order to legally enshrine this objective, on the basis of which we will be able to use and protect the resources that are found in areas close to our coast and that have been the subject of depletion by unlicensed foreign fishing fleets.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is not possible today to talk about the need to preserve and better use the marine resources, without also talking about the need to protect the environment in general, whose degradation is negatively reflected in the seas and oceans. Global warming is responsible for the melting of the glacier cap that has been frighteningly increasing the level of sea water, endangering cities and other population settlements on the coast on a universal scale. This same global warming, which increases the average temperature of ocean waters, is also responsible for the expressive increase in the number of cyclones, hurricanes and tsunamis in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, which, being increasingly frequent and devastating, have caused a high number of human victims and considerable material damage on virtually every continent.

It is our responsibility to take all measures to increasingly reduce the emission of greenhouse gases to protect the ozone layer and consequently the planet

Angola has taken significant steps in recent years to reduce the flaring of fossil fuels for power production. We privilege the production and transport of power from hydroelectric sources throughout the country and we are committed to ambitious projects for the production of photovoltaic energy in the center, south and east of the country, whose first parks will be inaugurated and their energy injected into the national grid, already this month of July to come.

With the signing a few days ago of an important contract with a German company, we started to take the first steps in the production of green hydrogen for export from 2024.

In Angola we have made a great effort to train staff capable of helping the country to respond with the required effectiveness and efficiency to issues related to the main concerns around the oceans, and in this regard we have carried out an important exercise in partnership with the European Union's *Rise Africa*, with a view to addressing the issue of the worsening of marine pollution, especially from urban solid waste, of which plastic is the biggest problem.

We have been paying special attention to the Wetlands that are part of the marine and coastal ecosystem, prioritizing in this context the protection and conservation of

these areas through reforestation and mangrove conservation actions, with emphasis on the campaign of Planting in eight months of one million of Mangroves throughout the Angolan coast, carried out with the active participation of Angolan civil society, mainly young people who are dedicated to environmental causes.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are convinced that we will not be able to achieve the goals related to the protection of the marine ecosystem, if we do not courageously assume the need to strengthen the maritime defense and security capacity, strongly threatened by groups of modern sea pirates who carry out their terrorist activity in major sea routes, seriously threatening international trade. In this regard, I particularly highlight the problems in the Gulf of Guinea, in the Horn of Africa and in other areas of the planet, where piracy seriously threatens the use of the seas for peaceful purposes such as trade, tourism and other activities related issues that drive economies.

I consider the need to expand international cooperation with the countries of these regions to be important, in order to provide them with the capacity to face this global threat. The importance of the oceans for the smooth flow of goods, their impact on world trade and on the stabilization of prices of essential goods and raw materials, as well as on the normal functioning of the global economy, is becoming increasingly evident.

In the face of this remark, the crucial importance and the unavoidable need for the peaceful use of oceans, as a guarantee of survival in humanly acceptable conditions of the populations of our entire planet, necessarily stands out. The oceans, seas and land infrastructure connected to them, such as commercial ports, are so important for economies and for the well-being of citizens around the world in such way the blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports is causing the crisis global food supply that we are currently experiencing, due to the shortage of cereals, fertilizers and oilseeds for the production of cooking oil.

In this regard, it is important that the European Union, the United Nations and, in general, the entire International Community, prioritize and focus their main efforts in the search for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, followed by negotiations with the concerned parties, to achieve and build a peace that is truly lasting for Europe.

At a time when the tensions prevailing in Southeast Asia, the Korean Peninsula, or the Persian Gulf have not yet been overcome, any of them with the potential to

evolve into a nuclear clash, the world can no longer bear the outbreak and prevalence of a new conflict in the heart of Europe, given the consequences it might have for the global economy, but above all for world peace and security.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I could not fail to mention the great effort of cooperation that the CPLP Member States have been making, to assume a committed and interesting role in the discussion of issues related to the oceans, if we are to take into account the fact that we are all coastal countries.

In this context, I would like to highlight some very commendable initiatives that have been carried out, such as the “Blue Talks”, which constituted a platform for very useful debates held during the weeks leading up to this Conference. A great evidence of the importance that the CPLP attaches to its relationship with the oceans, is the Namibe Declaration, adopted in the Angolan province of the same name. This is an important legal document that has been widely discussed among all Member States and aims to establish a Platform for Cooperation in the Promotion of Sustainable Fishing and Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, among the Member States of the CPLP.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic, and His Excellency Uhuru Muiga Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, for this important initiative in holding this Conference and for the excellent working arrangements and accommodation accorded to the delegations.

I also thank the Portuguese authorities and this welcoming people for the hospitality that has been accorded to us.

**I Thank you.**