

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE ANGOLAN
DELEGATION AT THE EIGHTH (8TH) CONFERENCE ON
FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
CTBT**

(NEW YORK, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2013)

Madame

Co-Presidents,

Mr. Executive Secretary, Lassina Zerbo

Distinguished Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In representation of the Angolan Minister of External Relations, I take this opportunity to congratulate Hungary and Indonesia for assuming the Co-presidency of this Conference and express thanks for the efforts to achieve a Final Declaration, with objectives aiming to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

I should also like to express thanks for the work carried out by Sweden and Mexico, who exercised Co-presidency of the Seventh Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT.

Similarly, I congratulate Prof. **Lassina Zerbo** on this election to the position of executive Secretary of Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and take the opportunity to assure him of the total cooperation of the Republic of Angola.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The banning of nuclear testing has become a universal value and can put a brake on the development of nuclear weapons and, consequently prevent their proliferation. In addition to that, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an essential pillar which supports the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and represents a realistic and practical approach to the building of a world free from nuclear weapons.

Considered a Signatory State of the CTBTO, since 27 September 1996, the Republic of Angola has been attentive to the development of the process for entry into force of the Treaty and monitors the efforts of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO at political level and through bilateral and multilateral channels available, aimed at encouraging all States to maintain their support for the suspension of nuclear testing.

The Angolan Government supports the initiatives of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, and within the scope of its external policy, it considered at the meeting of the Council of Ministers, held 24 April 2013, a Resolution proposal approving the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The implementation of this Council of Ministers decision is under way in the National Assembly.

With the conclusion of this process, our country will take an important step towards ratification of the Treaty, thereby contributing towards the complete banning of nuclear testing world-wide.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, we reiterate the unconditional support of the Republic of Angola for the initiatives in favor of the entry into force of the CTBT, aimed at building a better world for all, free from nuclear weapons.