



**REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA**

**EMBAIXADA DA REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA NA REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA FEDERAL DA ETIÓPIA, REPÚBLICA DE DJIBOUTI,  
REPÚBLICA DO SUDÃO, ESTADO DA ERITREIA E MISSÃO PERMANENTE JUNTO DA UNIÃO AFRICANA E UNECA**

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MIGUEL CÉSAR DOMINGOS  
BEMBE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO  
THE AFRICAN UNION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN  
POLICY DIALOGUE PROMOTED BY AMANI AFRICA**

Addis Ababa, on 27 February 2025

**EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS,**

**DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

**ESTEEMED DR. SOLOMON DRESSO, DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF AMANI  
AFRICA,**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

**ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED,**

First of all, let me thank **AMANI AFRICA** for the kind invitation to participate in this important African political dialogue, in my capacity as Chair of the African Union's Permanent Representatives Committee.



It is indeed with great honour and satisfaction that we take this opportunity to reflect together not only on the **recent achievements of the African Union, in the context of the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, but also on its continuous and effective evolution.**

Undoubtedly, one of the main outcomes of the aforementioned African Union Assembly, held on 15 and 16 February, was the **election of the new Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency MOHAMMED ALI YOUSOUF, and the new Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Her Excellency SELMA MALIKA HADDADI.**

In addition, (4) four of the (6) six Commissioners who form the new leadership of our continental Organisation were elected for a four-year term.

This represents a major achievement, as it demonstrates that the African Union has once again succeeded in carrying out a **rigorous, transparent and inclusive electoral process, at the end of which merit, competence and in-depth knowledge of the workings of our Organisation emerged victorious.**

This is perhaps the time to salute each of the unsuccessful candidates for the various elective positions, who were by no means far from performing satisfactorily and who made an important contribution to the open competitiveness that was followed from the four corners of the continent, and beyond, throughout the election campaign.

This fruitful exercise, in which they have done brilliantly, contributes to the continued development of the democratisation and professionalisation of our African Union.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a fact that the electoral process is not yet fully finalised. We still have to elect two Commissioners who, according to the regional distribution, must come from Central Africa.

We therefore hope that this exercise will be completed by 15 April at the latest, during an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council, in accordance with the Decision adopted on the matter by the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

However, for those who have recently been elected and are due to take office very soon, the time has clearly come to get down to business and start working hard.

At an internal level, special attention must be paid to the excessive bureaucracy that makes the machine heavy and unsustainable, but also to the need to find a **creative mechanism to compel Member States and the Commission itself to respect the effective implementation of the Decisions** taken by the highest Body of our Union, as well as the other competent Bodies.

The need to improve the internal organisation of the African Union inevitably leads us to the extreme imperative of providing our Organisation with a **sufficient number of staff, expressive in competence and assigned to appropriate positions with the obligation to perform well.**

This can only be achieved by **finalising the Skills Audit and Competence Assessment (SACA) process**, which the new President and Vice-President of the Commission have certainly mastered, given their previous positions.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we all know, the African continent represents more than a quarter of the voting power at international level, particularly within the United Nations.

We have to capitalise on this comparative advantage by strengthening the mechanisms that will allow us to consolidate our presence on the international stage.

To this end, it is our duty to exercise all our influence in a determined and coordinated manner, with a view to **building a new International Financial Architecture**, where our continent will be seen, heard and considered at its full value, namely as an important player that can no longer be marginalised in the context of modern international relations.

The African Union's recent accession to the G20 is a significant step forward, but it is still only the first step towards realising this outstanding ambition.

Likewise, we are once again called upon to do everything in our power to ensure that **reform of the United Nations Security Council is finally achieved**, where our continent has shown the way by defending the **Common African Position, based on the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration**. 20 years have passed!

All these important issues are at the top of the agenda of the rotating Chairmanship of the African Union that my country, the Republic of Angola, currently holds.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This year, for the first time in its history, the Republic of Angola assumes the *pro-tempore* Chairmanship of the African Union, at a very symbolic moment when the country is also preparing to launch the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its National Independence, under the theme: **“Preserving and Valuing the Achievements Made, Building a Better Future”**.

The vision of the Angolan Chairmanship of our continental Organisation is aligned with the seven **African Aspirations and the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**.

Here, the consolidation and pursuit of our Union's institutional reforms take centre stage, and we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our call to the Member States to jointly do everything necessary to provide our Organisation with adequate and predictable funding of its own.

In the fulfilment of its mandate, Angola also intends to use its intervention capacity to **promote the priority actions defined at continental level as part of the implementation of the theme of the year: “Justice for Africans and Afro-descendants through Reparations”**.

However, as announced by His Excellency **JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO**, President of the Republic of Angola and Chair of the African

Union, Angola has also chosen to highlight an important topic that will guide it throughout its Chairmanship, centred on the **“importance of investment in infrastructure as a factor for development in Africa”**.

This approach, combined with the theme of the year, offers a broader perspective in which the various international partners will be invited to contribute effectively to the sustainable and integrated development of our continent.

In fact, with a view to contributing to the promotion of economic and social growth, Angola proposes to encourage initiatives aimed at improving transport infrastructure and connectivity, including by organising a **Continental Conference on Financing Infrastructure in Africa**, in Luanda this year.

The development of modern and resilient infrastructure in Africa, accessible to all, will have a **considerable impact on mobility and industrialisation, as well as accelerating the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.

We recall that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a decisive step towards the economic integration and sustainable development of our continent, with the aim of transforming it into a dynamic and competitive single market, where the exploitation of raw materials, agriculture and blue economy play a leading role.

In this context, the African Union necessarily relies on intensifying secure and effective partnerships with the rest of the world, based on inclusive

dialogue and results-oriented cooperation, on the basis of its own strategic objectives.

To this end, it should also be noted that the Angolan Chairmanship of the African Union will be organising the **7th edition of the Africa-US Business Forum in Luanda next June, in collaboration with the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA).**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Peace and security issues have a decisive influence on the development and stability of our continent.

In addition to his capacity as **Champion of the African Union for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa**, as **Chair of the African Union**, His Excellency President **JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO** has an added role to play in coordinating African strategies and initiatives to promote the maintaining of peace and security on the continent.

In this regard, the Angolan Chairmanship of the African Union is determined to continue its efforts to find a **peaceful and negotiated solution** to the conflicts that continue to ravage the Eastern region of the DRC and Sudan, as this is the only viable way out of the crisis in both cases.

We also want to ensure that the continent's voice is heard in order that the new **African Union Stabilisation and Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM)** can, in the very short term, benefit from adequate, sustainable and predictable financial resources to carry out its mandate, notably through the **implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 of 2023.**

Finally, issues relating to the eradication of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the challenges facing the continent in terms of unconstitutional changes of government, will also be key items on our agenda.

In this context, we will focus on promoting African mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution, including the **Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence - Luanda Biennale**.

The Fourth Edition of this important platform for dialogue and reflection will be held this year in two separate moments, **from 2 to 4 July and 12 and 13 November respectively, under the theme: “Honouring the Past, Valuing the Achievements, Building the Africa We Want”**.

We therefore invite everyone to take part in this great celebration of Africa.

With these words, I have the honour of declaring this policy forum open.

**Thank you for your attention!**