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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON  
THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At its 80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held at Ambassadorial level, in Addis Ababa, on 23 February 2002, the Central Organ was briefed by the Permanent Representative of Angola to the OAU and Ambassador to Ethiopia on the situation in his country, following the death of Dr. Jonas Savimbi, the erstwhile UNITA Leader, on 22 February 2002. During the briefing, the Ambassador reiterated the commitment of the Government of Angola to comply fully with the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, as the basis for achieving peace, and stated that UNITA had always been an obstacle to peace. Further, he called upon the OAU and the rest of the international community to continue to support the Angolan people in their efforts aimed at restoring peace and security in the country. The Central Organ took note of the statement.

2. This report provides an overview of the developments in the country since the 80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Central Organ at Ambassadorial level.

**II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

3. During the period under review, tremendous progress has been achieved in the internal efforts to end the war in Angola. Following the death of the UNITA Leader, the Angolan Government moved quickly to urge his followers to lay down their arms and indicated that it would issue, in due course, a detailed programme on the cessation of hostilities. On 4 March 2002, as Secretary General of the OAU, I issued a communiqué in which I welcomed the renewed disposition of President Eduardo dos Santos to work towards the speedy conclusion of a ceasefire agreement and the peace process, through the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

4. On 14 March 2002, the Government of Angola issued a statement in which it instructed the Angolan Armed Forces to "cease all offensive movements" by the midnight of 14 March 2002, with a view to creating a conducive environment for continuing ceasefire negotiations between the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA military forces. In that statement, the

Government also highlighted extensively its intentions and commitments on various aspects of the peace process in the country, including the transformation of UNITA into a political party, the issue of amnesty for all crimes committed in the context of the armed conflict, the political and legal solution to the electoral process that was not completed in 1992, the provision of humanitarian assistance to the needy people, the extension of state administration, and post-war economic development. In conclusion, the Government appealed to all the "political forces and civil society, as well as all the citizens, to maintain a higher sense of responsibility", stressing that the time had come for reconciliation, mutual forgiveness and unity.

5. The Central Organ will also recall that during its 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 9 to 15 March 2002, the Council of Ministers was apprised on the latest developments in Angola. Council welcomed the positive evolution of the situation and encouraged the parties to pursue their efforts aimed at bringing about lasting peace in the country, while, at the same time, recommending that the sanctions regime against UNITA should be kept in place until there was an irreversible progress in the peace process.

6. On 27 March 2002, the UN Security Council issued a statement in which it welcomed the communiqué released by the Government of Angola on 13 March 2002. The Security Council urged UNITA to recognize the historic nature of the opportunity to end the conflict with dignity, to give a clear, positive response to the Government's offer of peace, to implement fully the Lusaka Protocol and to re-enter the political life to pursue its ideals as an important contributor to the process of national reconciliation towards a fully democratic Angola. The Security Council declared its support for the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and its willingness to work with the parties in this endeavor. Finally, the Security Council expressed its readiness to review and make exemptions from and amendments to the measures imposed by paragraph 4 (a) of UN Security Council resolution 1127 of August 1997, in consultation with the Government of Angola and with a view to facilitating the peace negotiations.

7. On 30 March 2002, the Government of Angola expressed satisfaction with the understanding reached at the negotiations between the military commanders of the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA that began on 15 March 2002. The Government also approved a draft amnesty law for subsequent submission to the National Assembly for adoption.

8. On 4 April 2002, the Government of Angola and UNITA signed, in Luanda, a Memorandum of Understanding Supplementary to the Lusaka Protocol for the Cessation of Hostilities and Resolution of Pending Military Issues under the terms of the Lusaka Protocol. The occasion was witnessed by representatives of the United Nations, Military Representatives of the Troika (Portugal, Russia and United States of America), Representatives of Lusophone countries, Officials of SADC and members of the diplomatic corps. I was represented at the ceremony by Assistant Secretary General Daniel Antonio.

9. In a communiqué issued on the occasion, I welcomed the signing of the agreement, commending both the Government of Angola and UNITA for this achievement, and assured them of OAU's continued support. The Office of the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation also saluted the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. It reiterated its availability to continue supporting the efforts of the government and people of Angola in the consolidation of peace and democracy and appealed to the international community to provide the necessary assistance for the implementation of the agreement.

10. During the period under review, the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee on the follow-up of UN Security Council sanctions against UNITA pursued its activities, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it. The Committee undertook fact-finding missions to Nigeria, for consultation with the ECOWAS Secretariat, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. The Committee held useful discussions with leaders and other officials in the countries visited. On 12 March 2002, Ambassador Jean Larrain, Chairman of the UN Monitoring Mechanism, visited Addis Ababa, where he had in-depth consultations with the members of the Ad Hoc Committee. I seized the opportunity of his presence in Addis Ababa to exchange views with him on the situation in Angola and the implementation of the UN sanctions.

11. I am also pleased to report that, on 18 April 2002, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of Monitoring Mechanism for a further period of six months, ending on 19 October 2002. The Security Council called upon all States to cooperate fully with the Monitoring Mechanism in the discharge of its mandate.

### **III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS**

12. Following the death of Dr. Savimbi, hostilities between the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA forces diminished drastically. As indicated above, on 13 March 2002, the Government of Angola instructed the Angolan Armed Forces to cease all hostile movements and activities against UNITA forces, as of midnight of 14 March 2002. Military negotiations for a ceasefire began on 15 March 2002, in Luena, in eastern Angola. Generals Armando da Cruz and Abreu Kamorteiro led the delegations of the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA forces to the ceasefire talks, respectively. These preliminary contacts set the parameters for further deliberations that were conducted from 20 March to 3 April 2002, finally culminating in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding referred to above.

13. On 5 March 2002, a Joint Commission was established in Luanda and immediately took office. General Armando da Cruz and General Abreu Kamorteiro were assigned the task of heading the Commission. The Commission was assigned the mandate to a) disarm UNITA fighters; b) integrate willing UNITA combatants into the national army and national police; and c) demobilize UNITA combatants. In addition, the Commission will facilitate the establishment of regional offices in the country's 12 provinces, which will provide back up support to the Commission's activities. At the end of its mandate, the Commission is expected to complete the dissolution of UNITA's military wing.

### **IV. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

14. Though the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding brought tremendous relief to the war affected persons, the precarious conditions under which around 4,5 million displaced persons live remain undiminished. In addition, there are more than 50 000 child war orphans and several thousands of wounded civilians from the war in need of care and rehabilitation. As such, the humanitarian sector poses the most formidable challenge as peace returns to Angola. There will be enormous demands in terms of the provision of shelter, food, medicine, sanitation and resettlement, as well as infrastructures, all of which require considerable resources.

15. On 11 March 2002, the Embassy of Angola in Addis Ababa wrote to the OAU, requesting for humanitarian assistance. At the time of finalizing this report, the Secretariat was considering modalities through which the OAU would contribute towards alleviating the humanitarian plight of the civilian population. In its statement of 13 March 2002, the Angolan Government indicated that it was preparing an emergency programme for the re-integration and resettlement of displaced persons, the reinsertion of the demobilized combatants, the war veterans and the handicapped, as well as the sheltering of child war orphans. It appealed to the international community to provide resources to support this programme. In its statement of 27 March referred to above, the Security Council expressed its concern at the grave humanitarian situation in the country. It welcomed the decision by the government to include humanitarian assistance in its plan to extend state administration in Angola.

**V. OBSERVATIONS**

16. I wish to commend the Government of Angola for its commitment to ensure that the peace process in the country is brought to its logistical conclusion on the basis of the Lusaka Protocol. I wish also to commend UNITA for its new disposition towards the peace process. I strongly encourage its military and political leaders to remain committed, as they have done so far, to the peace process and to complete their obligations as stipulated in the 1994 Lusaka Protocol.

17. The restoration of peace and security in Angola would enable the country to devote its energies to the pressing challenges of national reconciliation, reconstruction and socio-economic development. The OAU remains fully committed to help the Leaders and people of Angola to advance the cause of peace as they embark on the arduous task of reconstructing and rehabilitating its traumatized people and damaged infrastructure. Finally, I wish to call upon the wider International Community to provide additional resources to alleviate the humanitarian plight of those in need and to support the process of bringing the long-running war in Angola to a definitive end.