

## **Second Angola- European Union Ministerial Meeting**

**Luanda 19th November 2015**

### **Joint Statement**

The Republic of Angola and the European Union (EU) held in Luanda on 19th November 2015 the second Ministerial meeting organised under the EU-Angola Joint Way Forward agreement, a framework for dialogue and cooperation, based on common interests and values. This Ministerial covered areas ranging from peace and security, good governance, human rights and migration, economic growth and sustainable development, energy, research and innovation and climate change.

The Ministerial meeting was Co-chaired for the Republic of Angola by H. E. Dr. **Job Graça**, Minister of Planning and Territorial Development and for the EU by H.E. **Jean Asselborn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, on behalf of H.E. **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The Parties reiterated their commitment to the objectives set out in the Joint Way Forward and to increase cooperation in the topics indicated below. The EU congratulated Angola on the recent celebrations of 40 years of independence. Angola used the opportunity to convey the feeling of solidarity of the government of the Republic of Angola towards the government of the Republic of France and the grieved families, victims of the perfidious and cowardly terrorist attack in Paris of last Friday, 13 of November 2015, and reaffirmed its engagement in international efforts in the fight against terrorism and in bringing the actors to justice.

#### **PEACE AND SECURITY**

The EU commended Angola's efforts as member of the UN Security Council 2015/16, its leadership of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and its chairmanship of the Kimberley Process. The EU welcomed its dedication to African regional affairs and willingness to play an active and constructive role in global issues.

The Parties reasserted their interest in pursuing a broader and deeper dialogue in the field of peace and security, and agreed to explore areas of crisis management cooperation in Africa and elsewhere. In this respect, the EU takes good note of the role played by Angola as co- facilitator of the intergovernmental consultations on the 2015 Review of the U.N. Peacebuilding Architecture.

The Parties reaffirmed their commitment towards creating the conditions for security, stability, and sustainable development in the Great Lakes Region in support of the AU/UN led Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Great Lakes Region and in particular in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Parties expressed strong concern about the deterioration of the security and human rights situation in Burundi. They stressed the importance of urgent measures to reduce tension in the country and the need to a truly inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue in order to provide a viable solution to the present crisis. The EU and Angola are convinced that the East African Community mediation process, led by Uganda, the African Union and the United Nations continue to be vital for finding a peaceful political solution for Burundi.

On the Central African Republic, the Parties pledged support for the holding of the first round of presidential and legislative elections before the end of the year and condemned recent acts of violence.

With regards to elections in the region, the Parties agreed that inclusive and transparent processes, in respect of constitutional provisions and in line with the African charter for Democracy, elections and governance, are the best way to ensure stability and development in Africa.

Bearing in mind Angola's and the EU's strategic interests, the Parties agreed to continue working together in the area of maritime and energy security for the region. Both sides underlined the results of the Conference on Maritime and Energy Security, organised by the Government of Angola in cooperation with the Governments of Italy and of the USA, on 8th and 9th October 2015 in Luanda.

Angola emphasized that the Luanda conference showed a strong approximation of the participants with regards to the Yaounde Code of Conduct. One of the consensuses of the declaration was that the African countries should, first of all, adopt this code according to their national law, which is considered of great importance for their national sovereignty. This matter shall be analysed at the next summit of the African Union in Lomé in 2016.

The EU congratulated Angola for its ambitious agenda for its chairmanship of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) and welcomed the spirit of unity that Angola has promoted within this unique tripartite collaboration between governments, industry and civil society. As a major African diamond producing country with experience of both industrial and artisanal mining, Angola has shown leadership in ensuring agreement on a framework for the incremental lifting of the embargo on export of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic and in supporting the regional approach to KPCS implementation in West-Africa.

The EU commended Angola for its commitment to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, a framework for the management of security and human rights risks around diamond mining sites, and welcomed the inclusion of these Voluntary Principles in the priorities for Angola's KPCS Chairmanship.

The Parties agreed it was important for the KPCS to continue striving towards better outcomes for diamond mining nations and communities and fostering the KPCS's collaboration with external organisations with related remits, such as the Financial Action Task Force and Interpol.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIGRATION**

The Parties had an open and frank exchange on different issues and reaffirmed their commitment to the relevant International Conventions they have ratified.

The EU commended Angola for its openness to dialogue with the EU and for the commitments recently made within the framework the Universal Periodic Review. It pledged support to reforms with a view to consolidating the rule of law, constitutional rights and good governance.

Regarding the situation of human rights defenders and other activists in the country, the EU recalled the importance of an effective exercise of freedom of assembly and freedom of expression as enshrined in the Angolan Constitution and international legal instruments ratified by Angola. In addition the parties reaffirmed that the rule of law is based on due legal processes, rights for the defendants and proportionality.

The Angolan part informed about the resolution of the National Assembly approved on 18th November 2015, in reaction to the resolution of the European Parliament on the human rights situation in Angola.

Both Parties reiterated the importance of holding a regular dialogue in this field, in the framework of article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement and of the Joint Way Forward.

Considering that migration poses similar challenges to Angola and the EU in particular on how to manage migration flows, the parties agreed to follow-up discussions with a view to enhance cooperation in this area, including possible exchanges of experiences and best practices. The conclusions of the Valetta Summit can provide a useful set of principles to guide such discussions. Exchanges could also cover the issue of mobility within the respective regions. The EU also welcomed Angola's interest in participating in the Seaport Cooperation project (SEACOP) and in continuing to collaborate with FRONTEX.

In addition to that the parties share the interest to establish partnerships and cooperation in the area of border management fight against document fraud, trafficking of human beings irregular immigration, smuggling of migrants, international crimes, money laundering as well as terrorism.

## **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The EU welcomed the recent reinforced engagement by the Angolan authorities in the integration of its economy in regional and international markets. Both parties recalled that the SADC Free Trade Protocol, the Tripartite Free Trade Area and the EU- SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (**EPA**) all contribute to creating a framework conducive to promoting development and trade and generating sustainable and inclusive growth.

The EU informed Angola on the progress with the finalisation of an EPA with the SADC group and invited Angola to consider joining in. As discussed during the EU-SADC Ministerial, the EU has the intention to support partners in the implementation of the EPAs and of their regional objectives to catalyse sustainable economic growth, jobs and mutual benefits.

The EU reaffirmed its willingness to support the Angolan Government's efforts to promote economic diversification as a means to promote a more sustainable development, as defined in the post-2015 Development agenda.

The Parties are pleased to note that total trade between them has increased in 2014 up to €16 billion up from less than €4 billion in 2004. In this growing trade relationship, both the EU and Angola are ready to react promptly to any trade obstacles that may emerge. They

emphasise that trade measures shall be in line with their respective WTO obligations and will duly respect the investments that the parties have lawfully made in each other's territory.

In this context, and recognising the important contribution of domestic and foreign investments to the overall economic sustainability of the country, the EU and Angola discussed ways to improve the business climate in Angola in order to further promote bilateral trade and investment flows. Parties recognised that predictability and reliability of the investment regime are crucial for domestic and foreign direct investment to grow.

Both parties recognized the value of on-going development cooperation and expressed satisfaction on the signing of the National Indicative Program on 26 October 2015, in the margins of the October 2015 EU-SADC Ministerial. In line with national priorities, the EU supports key areas of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education, Sustainable Agriculture, Water and Sanitation and measures in favour of civil society. The €210 million allocated will contribute to fight poverty, alleviate inequality and to improve the capacity of Angolan institutions.

Furthermore, as a measure to facilitate more effective engagement of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in contributing to co-financing eligible infrastructure projects, the government has agreed to accelerate the process of assessing pending and future investment operations involving the bank.

A workshop will be organised in Luanda, with the EIB and the Services of the European Commission in 1st Quarter 2016 to present its activities and instruments and to get to know the Angolan projects.

## **ENERGY**

Having agreed on the relevance of the energy sector for the general development of societies, both Parties decided to explore modalities of cooperation in the implementation of Policy and Strategy of Energy Security, in particular rural electrification, energy efficiency, and regulation.

With a view to facilitate regional integration and trade, both Parties acknowledged the importance of efficient transport networks for energy and the EU confirmed its availability to support such undertakings.

The Parties confirmed interest in the dialogue on sustainable energy between the Ministry of Energy and Water (MINEA) and the EIB) to explore financing of the Angolan energy investment programme.

## **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

Recognising that Research and innovation are essential competitive factors for socio-economic transformation, poverty reduction and sustainable development, the Parties are committed to assess ways for further cooperation. In this regard the potential of "Horizon 2020", the European Programme for Research and Innovation, will be further explored. The EU took note that the Angolan Ministry of Science of Technology is improving its network of National Contact Points (NCPs) and that an information session on "Horizon 2020" is envisaged to take place in Luanda during 2016 to increase awareness and provide practical

guidance on applications to the programme. Moreover, students and researchers mobility programmes and the establishment of partnerships, networks and joint activities between relevant research teams and institutions will be promoted.

The EU and Angola reiterated their interest in signing the collaborative research arrangement (CRA) between the Angolan Institute of Meteorology INAMET and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre aimed at reinforcing INAMET capacity in the areas of agro-meteorological and hydrological monitoring through training and data exchange and collaborating in the improvement of agrometeorological and hydrological models and products.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Both parties look forward to substantive achievements on climate change agreements during the 2015 Paris Climate conference (COP21). The EU commends Angola for its role in leading the negotiations for the LDC group and both recognise the importance of timely submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) ahead of COP21.

They recognise that adaptation is an urgent challenge and agreed on promoting climate resilient sustainable development consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. The parties also declared to remain available to exchange and discuss on mitigation aspects on the basis of concrete indications on the Angola Government's interests and proposals. In this regard, the EU re-affirmed its availability to provide technical support if required.

The parties declared their will to intensify collaboration at policy level and to the exchange of experiences and technical cooperation in areas of Emissions Control and Carbon Markets as well as on sustainable forestry management and implementation of related legislation.

Concerning disaster management, Angola proposed the establishment of a bilateral dialogue which could lead not only to the identification of possible capacity building activities but also to the exchange of important information on prevention and mitigation of the impact of climate change.

## **FOLLOW UP**

In order to promote the best practices and consolidate the objectives of the Joint Way Forward, the EU welcomes Angola intent to present a draft action plan to guide the implementation of the JWF. The EU stands ready to discuss such plan and to agree with Angola on the prioritisation and scheduling of the related actions.

An adequate follow-up mechanism should complement the process, with the aim to organising during the first half 2016, the first dialogues at technical level on the areas agreed by Angola and the EU. Furthermore, these dialogues will be supported at a political level by both parties.

Angola and the EU agreed that the next Ministerial meeting will take place in the second semester of 2016 in Brussels.

Luanda, 19th November 2015