



STATEMENT

BY

**H. E. MR. FERNANDO DA PIEDADE DIAS DOS SANTOS
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
AT THE SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT**

DOHA, 15 JUNE 2005

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar,

His Excellency Mr. Percival James Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, Chairman of the Group 77 and China,

Excellencies Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Group 77 and China,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation and on my own name, to congratulate His Royal Highness, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for the warm reception that was reserved to us, the facilities that are being provided to us and, above all, for the fraternity and hospitality that characterises the people of Qatar.

The major problems and challenges facing our countries today are specific and common to our group. Poverty, education, food security, the pandemic HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, drug traffic, ecological problems, terrorism, etc, require a collective approach from all of us.

We hope that the decisions taken by the international community, of which we are part of, help to strengthen the relationship among all of us. We also hope that the armed conflicts existing in our continents can be resolved through dialogue, allowing for better perspectives for a safer world based on justice, right and the rule of law.

Angola will always support all measures leading to conflict resolution by pacific means and dialogue.

Excellencies,

During the Havana summit in 2000, Angola was facing a destructive war. Today the situation has changed. During the last three years we have been living in an environment of peace and national reconciliation, and we are also undertaking solid steps to deepen and consolidate democracy.

The south summit, which gathers here today, most of its leaders, gives us an opportunity for a profound reflection on the outcome of the Havana plan of action, especially on the economic development and poverty reduction. Together we should find the right solutions to the different problems that our countries are facing in this world that is becoming more and more globalized.

In order to face the challenges of sustainable development, a great process of integration is taking place in Africa, among which the New Partnership for the African Development "NEPAD" is prominent.

NEPAD is centred in a long-term common vision and in a strong conviction of all Africans that it is urgent and imperative to work actively to eradicate poverty from our countries and to place the continent in the right path of sustainable development.

Despite the efforts made, at a national and international level, to promote an equitable and balanced world growth, the poverty and hunger issues are still the core of our concerns.

Notwithstanding the announced public assistance to development, and the promises of debt forgiveness from the developed countries, most of the developing countries, particularly in Africa, still present serious economical and structural distortions. This allows the north to control the large capital flows and to lead the technological and scientific knowledge.

In these circumstances, only a long-term common vision, based on solid strategies and coordinated policies, both at national and international level, and the subsequent promotion and strengthening of the south-south cooperation, at intra and inter-regional levels, can reduce the perverse effects of globalization.

Angola, as a developing country, defends that trade issues at the WTO level should focus on the key-points of interest for our economies. These issues have been the ground for divergences during the ministerial meetings.

In this respect, we would very much appreciate that those matters of common interest to our countries, defined in the Doha round, be positively approached in the coming WTO ministerial meeting, which will take place in Hong Kong, in December 2005.

We are particularly concerned with the lack of progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, and recognise that one of the main factors, which could lead to the attainment of these goals is the massive investment in human resources, knowledge and the strengthening of the south-south cooperation, particularly in science

and technology. This is a vital condition for attaining sustainable development.

In this connection, we welcome all initiatives leading to universal access to information and knowledge and congratulate the creation of the digital solidarity fund within the framework of the world summit on the information society, to be held in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005.

Excellencies,

We would like to encourage all forms of integration that strengthen our historical, social and cultural identity. In this respect, the government of Angola is implementing a set of measures and policies to promote macro-economic stability and poverty reduction aimed at reducing the inflation rate, stabilizing the interest rate and the exchange rate, stimulating the private initiative and the private property in order to increase business activities, employment and the income of the population.

With regard to the strategy for poverty reduction, the Angolan government has defined areas of intervention with emphasis to the sectors of health, education, social reinserction, employment and professional training.

However, the situation of the country remains a source of concern. Although the growth rate of the GDP is high, it is not stable due to the imbalances still existing in our economical structure.

Excellencies,

Today, the world is living in an international environment featured by different threats, which put at risk the peace, stability and international or collective security.

The fight against terrorism requires a rapid response from the international community in order to bring peace, stability and international security for all of us and for the coming generations.

I do not wish to end my intervention without expressing again words of thanks for the warmest hospitality that was provided by the people of Qatar to my delegation, and I wish great success to this 2nd Summit of the Group 77 + China.

I thank you.