

**STATEMENT BY MR. MANUEL AUGUSTO, SECRETARY
OF STATE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF ANGOLA AT
THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL
ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

1-4 SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr. President of the Conference and Prime Minister of the
Independent State of Samoa,

Secretary General of the SIDS Conference,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, may I express to you, Excellency and to the
Government and people of Samoa, our deep gratitude for

the remarkable job you have done in preparing the Third international conference on SIDS, and for the warm reception accorded to me and to my delegation since our arrival at this beautiful part of the pacific islands.

Mr. President,

As we all know, in 1994, the world came together in Barbados in the common understanding that Small Island Developing States face specific challenges in their path to sustainable development. But twenty years on, and despite two global SIDS conferences intended to mobilize action, many of these challenges remain. Geographic isolation, dependence on trade, limited natural resources and freshwater supplies and vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental degradation – to name a few – continue to have a restraining impact on the sustainable development prospects of SIDS.

The 5 year review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI+5) found that SIDS have made less progress than most other global groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty

reduction and debt sustainability. In 2012, Rio+20 recalled and expressed concern over these findings and reaffirmed the special case of SIDS. It placed particular emphasis on the impacts and threats that climate change continues to pose to SIDS and noted that while SIDS have progressed in some areas, their overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven.

This mixed progress, and regressive development in some cases, has been due in no small part to the additional pressures of climate change, climate variability, increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and sea-level rise which have been compounded by the international fuel, food and financial crises and the growing digital and inter-state infrastructure divide - the backbone of the global economy.

The Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa offers an important platform for reinvigorating political support for SIDS sustainable development issues at all levels. It provides a timely opportunity for the distillation of key SIDS interests and a springboard for their inclusion in the post

2015 development agenda that will guide development cooperation and priorities over the next decade or more.

We must not lose sight of our common commitment, as an international community, to the crucial importance of the development of SIDS.

Mr. President,

We have seen the varied challenges faced by the SIDS on the ground. At the same time, we have seen many contributions that SIDS have made regionally and internationally – the resilience of their peoples, the richness and diversity of their cultures, and their deep knowledge as custodians of their own environment and the oceans. No one understands better the challenges and sustainable development needs of SIDS, than SIDS themselves.

The challenges facing SIDS are significant but not insurmountable.

And so we gather here today, to move forward on existing commitments and to make new ones, we need to ensure that the special challenges of SIDS are addressed.

Mr. President,

This year is a momentous one for SIDS. The UN General Assembly has designated this year as the International Year of SIDS, the first time that a group of country has been honoured in such a way. The timing could not be more appropriate for targeted, strengthened and new partnerships and support to SIDS.

The **Theme** of the Conference, “*sustainable development of Small Island States through genuine and durable partnerships*”, paves the way and incentivizes the international community to work with SIDS to use the Conference in Samoa as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships and launch innovative and concrete new ones.

Therefore, Angola is committed to addressing climate change more broadly through the balance that was agreed

to in Copenhagen at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; and this balance must be maintained if we are to move forward on the issue. We are firmly committed to working with SIDS to put in place a robust, comprehensive, and sustainable regime that delivers significant mitigation actions by all major economies, ensures such actions are carried out in a transparent manner, and provides a framework of support for developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. President,

On 3 June 2009, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously passed a resolution on the Security Implications of Climate Change urging the relevant organs of the U.N. to intensify their efforts to address the security implications of climate change; and from the report of the Secretary-General on the Security Implications of Climate Change it is clear that security implications from climate change are not only “possible”, but real.

Also, the stability of fragile States faced with climate change threats and the implications of the latter for the Security Council's role in terms of conflict prevention was discussed by many delegations, who recognized a clear link between the functions exercised by the Security Council and the challenges posed by climate change.

Mr. President,

It is the reality and immediacy of these threats which motivated Angola to believe that it is increasingly critical that all relevant organs of the United Nations take up this issue. A consensus should be reached on some concrete steps that can be taken by the UN System and on having this topic on the agenda for the appropriate follow-up.

Therefore, the results of this Conference will ultimately depend on the credibility and effectiveness of its follow-up. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that all Governments commit themselves to translate the decisions they take collectively to national policies and practices required to give effect to them, particularly the implementation of SAMOA Pathway and other relevant decisions.

As a candidate for a non-permanent member seat of the Security Council for the period of 2015 – 2016, the Republic of Angola, can guarantee, if elected, that will continue its strong advocacy on addressing and keep the SIDS issues on the UN Agenda.

I thank you.