

**STATEMENT BY
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON
*“STRENGTHENING PEACEKEEPING: REFLECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE”***

9 September 2024

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you, Mr. President, and through you the Government of Slovenia, on your assumption of the presidency of the UN Security Council for this month and commend your initiative of convening this timely meeting on *“Strengthening Peacekeeping: Reflections for the Future”*. Today’s discussions will be a very significant contribution to the ongoing negotiations by UN Member States on the draft Pact for the Future, the anticipated outcome document of the Summit of the Future, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024.

The international peace and security architecture is more and more confronted with new and complex transnational challenges as we witness an increase of global tensions and the highest number of violent conflicts since World War II.

The UN peace operations are an essential tool to protect civilians in conflict situations, and actively promote longer-term peace and security strategies. However, international support for them is declining, requiring that they urgently adapt to these evolving security and diplomatic dynamics in order to be able to effectively fulfill their mandates.

Africa, the continent that hosts most of the peace operations in the world, continues struggling with limited financial resources to meet its security needs. The adoption of the UNSC resolution 2719 last December is an important milestone in the United Nations – African Union partnership on peace and security, since it provides the framework for adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing to AU-led Peace Support Operations.

The African Union and its regional organizations have demonstrated a clear comparative advantage as first responders with the political will to undertake offensive operations in high-risk environments. More than a strategic priority for Africa to create conditions to achieve sustainable development, a well-funded African peace and security architecture is in the best interest of the international community.

Like some other African countries in conflict situations, Angola benefitted from four UN peacekeeping missions authorized by the Security Council between 1989 and 2007 to assist the country in restoring peace and achieving national reconciliation. While recognizing the critical role played by the United Nations in the process, at the end Angolan leaders’ strong commitment to a political solution and the Government’s high-

ground approach to peace and national unity were the determinant factors to end decades of internal conflict on 4 April 2002.

To conclude, allow me to make three points:

1. Peacekeeping has been impacted by lack of consensus in the Security Council as result of the emergence of geopolitical tensions and contemporary great power rivalry. The Council needs to ensure full and consistent political support to peace operations, in order to enable them to deliver on their mandates more effectively, and create favorable conditions for finding durable solutions to conflicts.
2. We need to address the widening gap between the UN peacekeeping mandates and what missions can realistically deliver on the ground, in order to manage host country authorities and citizens' expectations, and avoid crisis of legitimacy.
3. In the context of the draft Pact for the Future under discussion, it is fundamental to take into account the role of regional partners in peace operations, and their respective comparative advantages, to have a comprehensive and effective response to current and emerging peace and security threats.

My delegation hopes that the Council's deliberations can contribute to strengthening peacekeeping operations and their outcomes where needed around the world.

I thank you.