



**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ADDRESS BY H.E FERNANDO DA PIEDADE DIAS DOS SANTOS,
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT THE FIFTH WORLD
CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT**

*PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE
MULTILATERALISM TOWARDS PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PLANET*

**His Excellency, President of the Austrian National Council, Wolfgang
Sobotka,**

**Her Excellency, President of the Interparliamentary Union, Mrs.
Gabriela Cuevas,**

His Excellency, António Guterres, the UN Secretary General,

Honorable Mrs. Speakers of the National Assemblies,

Distinguished Honorable Members of Parliaments

Ladies and gentlemen,

Currently, our countries are now confronting the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a lethal enemy which does not recognize national borders and has drastically changed the social relations as we knew them until very recently. That alone justifies the holding of this conference virtually. There is a mutual consensus that covid-19 constitutes one the biggest challenges for the 21st century, judging by the unprecedented social and economic impact this crisis has generated.

Indeed, the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic have hit all sectors of human life, which invites us to rethink the sort of public policies aimed at preserving the greatest of all goods: the human life. The global figures of infected people continue to grow, a clear sign that the fight against Covid-19 pandemic requires an imperative need for broad multilateral solidarity and cooperation. We therefore, believe that these are not times for unilateralism and the States should put aside the selfness and give room to a coordinated action, under the umbrella of the world health organization, meant to minimize the consequences of the pandemic and recover the global economy.

Angola, like any other country, has been feeling the negative impact of covid-19 on its economic and social sector, with immediate consequences on the growth of its economy. This has led the executive to take a set of measures to minimize the impact of the crisis on families, the most vulnerable ones, as well as the companies. However, we believe in our firmness and capacity to overcome this challenge, restoring the prospects for economic growth and bring back the stability of the markets. This is the only way to keep alive the flame of achieving the sustainable development goals set out in both the United Nations' agenda 2030 and the African union's agenda 2063.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The efforts carried out by the Angolan executive in preventing and combat covid-19 pandemic are being monitored by the National Assembly. This pandemic has also demonstrated the need for, domestically, hold a permanent consultation between the public authorities, political actors and the civil society.

On the face of the declaration of the State of Emergency and the Situation of Public Calamity, the national assembly has readjusted all its administrative proceedings in order to fulfill its mission and the objectives set forth for this legislative session.

The plenary sittings as well as the meetings of the specialized working groups, continued with their gatherings in accordance with the agenda and the legal and constitutional imperatives, by observing all the recommendations set forth by the health authorities.

However, this has only been possible due to the adoption of innovative functioning methods, whether administrative or technological, meant to implement the plan for technological and administrative modernization at the national assembly and in technological investment as well as in the users training.

Accordingly, we consider being crucial that parliaments continue to play a key and an acting role in adopting legislative framework for covid-19 pandemic, by protecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens. Similarly, parliaments must also oversight the measures taken by the executive in order to promote economic recovery and the implementation of policies aimed at achieving the sustainable development objectives.

Finally, let me call upon all of us that more than just simple statements, we all need to be more engaged so that, in the shortest possible time, the so-called “New Normal” will be a narrative of the past. Only together we will be able translate this into a reality.

Thanks.