



DIPLOMACY

NEW YEAR GREETINGS CEREMONY

Luanda | January 19, 2018

JOÃO LOURENÇO ATTENDED NEW YEAR GREETINGS CEREMONY WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS



The Angolan President, João Lourenço, last Friday 18, 2019, in Luanda appealed for the support of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in this country to help his government promote the image of this African state.

Speaking at the New Year greetings ceremony with the Diplomatic Corps, João Lourenço stressed that the fight against corruption and the process of improving the credibility of the state will continue to be a priority, that is why he was appealing to the foreign diplomats and international organisations to help Angola divulge its new image of becoming more open and receptive to private investment of various types.

He pointed out that last year his government carried out an active diplomatic exercise, with a strong leaning to economic diplomacy, which enabled the attraction of various investments and an exponential increase of interest for the Angolan market by new foreign investors.

This great diplomatic exercise, underscored the Head of State, was only possible thanks to the joint work done by the Angolan authorities, the diplomatic missions, international organisations and other foreign institutions based in Angola.



He expressed his gratitude for the work being done by those foreign players and reaffirmed that he is still counting on their collaboration for the continuation of the dynamics his government has been setting in motion.



“Today it is a general conviction that impunity relating to practices that harm public assets has its days numbered, and this has been contributing to the change of Angolan image, both at internal and international levels”, said the Angolan Head of State. He then reminded that one clear demonstration of the trust coming from international institutions is the recent agreement signed between the Republic of Angola and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The head of state has especially emphasized

“ We believe that, as International Relations actors, we must continue to defend multilateralism as the stabilizing mechanism of all nations, increasing the potential for fair and mutually advantageous cooperation.

We would like to emphasize the role of the Great Powers, which have great responsibilities in maintaining and safeguarding world peace and security, because any conflicts between them may have devastating and even catastrophic consequences for all humanity if they are not managed with responsibility.

We must stress the need to pay particular attention to the issue of global warming and climate change , which requires concrete action to be taken, as successive warnings by scientists point to an imminent risk of environmental collapse of our planet”.



DIPLOMACY

THE SADC DOUBLE TROIKA SUMMIT IN ETHIOPIA

Adis Abeba, | January 18, 2019

The President of the Republic, João Lourenço, returned this Friday 18, 2019 to Luanda after a trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he attended two summit on initiatives to contain the tension in DRC, since the announcement of the provisional results of the presidential, legislative and provincial elections.



The result of the elections of December 30, gave victory to candidate Felix Tshisekedi and the Alliance for the Presidential Majority (AMP) party. In recent days, accusations have been made by some international observers and the world press of alleged irregularities in the counting of votes, pointing to a supposed electoral victory of the candidate Martin Fayulu.

At the SADC Double Troika Summit, which included the Angolan Head of State, João Lourenço, the regional organ considered that the elections in DRC were historical, but called for avoidance of acts detrimental to the electoral process. The Summit called for continued peacemaking, security and cooperation in the DRC and in the region and reaffirmed SADC's commitment to support political processes in DRC as well as neutralize negative forces and other groups operating in the East.

The event also appealed the international community to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC in the light of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the SADC Treaty. SADC leaders welcomed the Government of the DRC and the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) for organizing and conducting generally peaceful elections, notwithstanding some

logistical incidents and difficulties, associated with the impediments caused by the outbreak the Ebola virus and acts of insurrection against security. The Angolan Head of State took part in another summit, chaired by the African Union incumbent chair Paul Kagame, attended by 10 African Heads of State, also seeking high-level consultations on the political situation in the DRC.

FELIX TSHISEKEDI BECOMES THE FIFTH PRESIDENT OF DRC

Adis Abeba, | January 24, 2019



The first peaceful transfer of political power in the Democratic Republic of Congo's took place in the capital, Kinshasa, on Thursday January 24. Felix Tshisekedi took his oath of office in the presence of thousands of Congolese at the Palais de Nations. The oath was administered by head of the Constitutional Court.

Immediate past president Joseph Kabila later handed over the flag and constitution of the country to Tshisekedi as both men shared an embrace amid smiles and cheers from attendees present.

The 56-year-old becomes the fifth president of the country. DRC since independence from Belgium in 1960 have had Joseph Kasavubu, Mobutu Sese Seko, Laurent and Joseph Kabila serving in the role.

International

“ABU DHABI'S SUSTAINABILITY WEEK” MEETING

Abu Dhabi | January 14, 2019

Lourenço Pledges for a greater investment in electrification and industrialization in the African continent

The President of the Republic, João Lourenço, defended on Tuesday 15, 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the "abolition of illiteracy" as well as greater investment in electrification and industrialization in the African continent. According to the Angolan Head of State, the industrialization of the continent will prevent the continued loss of skilled labour, senior managers, scientists and researchers.



In a speech at the Summit on Sustainable Future, President João Lourenço said that such focus will prevent works of art and other wealth from Africa from continuing to leave the continent in unfavourable conditions and without creating extra value and jobs for the countries of origin. At the summit, in Abu Dhabi's Sustainability Week, the statesman said that paradoxically, Africa, despite being the world's largest natural resources reserve, is less able to meet people's basic needs.

João Lourenço considered it essential to attract knowledge, advances in science, technology, capital and private investment to transform local raw materials locally. With this, the Head of State hopes to create more wealth, well-being, jobs and opportunities for growth. It is in this wake that the Angolan president declared that he sees the future of Africa with optimism and understands that the dream of developing the continent is achievable.

In this regard, he referred to the experience of other continents such as Asia, which in half a century has passed from importer to exporter, competing with First World countries. He also pointed to the example of the Emirates and other countries in the Persian Gulf, mentioning how good use of oil revenues can help diversify economies.

The Angolan statesman defended for Africa a sustainable development that respects and preserves nature, for the benefit of the future generations, favouring the use of clean and renewable sources of energy. João Lourenço has been in the United Arab Emirates since Saturday (12), on an official mission, at the invitation of the local authorities.

In the UAE, the Head of State participated as a guest of honour in the "Zayed for Sustainability" award ceremony. Cabinet ministers accompanied the president in this mission to the United Arab Emirates.

ANGOLA AND THE UAE STRENGTHEN BILATERAL COOPERATION



The authorities of Angola and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed last Monday 14, 2019 three agreements in the domain of production, transportation and supply of electric power and drinkable water.

The memoranda of understanding were signed by the Angolan minister of Energy and Waters, João Baptista Borges, and UAE's Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum, on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) being attended by the Angolan President, João Lourenço.



The minister said that the agreement aims at the construction of a power production central in the Angolan eastern province of Moxico, as well as an electrical system to inter-connect the country's eastern region. The agreement also includes the implementation of a desalination system in the Angolan coastal region with a view to improving the supply of potable water to the citizens, through the utilisation of low-coast quality technique.

João Baptista Borges informed that there is also a possibility of investment in renewable energies, in case the ongoing studies on the issue recommend it. The minister disclosed that Angola, in its capacity as a full member of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), wants to build in the coming five years at least 600 megawatts of solar parks, with the involvement of foreign investment.

As regards this issue, ANGOP has learnt that Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum has guaranteed 200 to 300 million dollars funding for the aforementioned project.

The UAE official said he hopes Angola is counting on making use of his country's experience, with emphasis on the desalination system whose taking off is depending on a viability study that should be concluded this year.

ECONOMICS

IMF APPROVES \$ 3.7 BILLION IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUPPORT ANGOLA'S ECONOMY

Luanda | December 22, 2018

Angola obtained a \$ 3.7 billion three-year loan from the Bretton Woods institution. Aid conditional on a more restrictive macroeconomic policy and structural reforms. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced on December 7 that its board had approved a loan of \$ 3.7 billion (3.2 billion euros) for Angola, intended to support a program of reforms economic. This decision allows the immediate release of a first payment of approximately \$ 990 million.



The three-year credit facility "will help Angola restore external and fiscal sustainability and lay the foundation for sustainable economic diversification, driven by the private sector," says the IMF's communication. In this context, the country will have to implement budget cuts - intended to moderate the public debt, which stands at 80.5% of GDP this year -, make the exchange rate more flexible and implement a monetary policy to reduce inflation, currently 20.5%.



SUPPORT REQUESTED IN JULY 2018

The Angolan authorities had announced in August 2018 that they had requested financial support from the IMF because of weaker than expected growth. As part of its efforts to restore the country's economic stability, the Angolan government has devalued kwanza by 45%, made the currency allocation mechanism more transparent and challenged a number of monopolies related to the dos Santos family. . But the results of these reforms are waiting for the moment.

Africa's second-largest oil producer was hit hard by the drop in crude prices, which led to a shortage of dollar cash and discouraged many foreign investors. After -6.6% in 2016 and -2.5% in 2017, the IMF is anticipating a third year of recession for 2018 with -0.1% in 2018, a level well below the government forecasts, which were 4.9% for this year. The international institution nevertheless forecasts a rebound in 2019, with 3.1% growth.

ANGOLA'S DEBT IS SUSTAINABLE



Angolan public debt is still sustainable, despite rising to 70 percent of the GDP, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde, said in an interview on Monday to the national daily, Jornal de Angola.

With the financing mobilized in 2018 from bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, the Angolan debt could reach (14, 3 billion kwanzas) 54.5 billion Euros by the end of this year. Despite the increase in the country's debt stock, Lagarde underscore that it is not a concern, since there is a joint



program between Angola and the IMF, and the debt sustainability has already been identified and approved.

The IMF Managing Director, who visited Angola from the 20 to 21 of this month, stressed that the IMF's Board of Directors only supports programs that imply debt sustainability. According to Lagarde, who came to Luanda to formalize 3.7 billion dollars loan from the Fund of which a billion is already in the Angolan accounts, during the three years of the IMF financial assistance, the Angolan Government will have full freedom to borrow from other creditors.

STATEMENT BY IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR CHRISTINE LAGARDE AT THE CONCLUSION OF HER VISIT TO ANGOLA.

Luanda | December 22, 2019



Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), issued the following statement today in Luanda at the conclusion of her visit to Angola: “I wish to thank President Lourenço, State Minister for Economic and Social Development Nunes Junior, Minister of Finance Mangureira, Governor Massano and other senior officials for our productive exchange of views and their warm hospitality during my visit to Luanda. I would also like to express my gratitude to all stakeholders with whom I met, including women leaders.

“Angola has come a long way since the end of the civil war 16 years ago. The oil endowment allowed Angola to rebuild critical infrastructure, and progress has also been achieved in reducing poverty. Still, much remains to be done to reduce the economy’s dependence on oil and its vulnerability to oil price fluctuations so that enough resources can be made available to improve living standards for all the Angolan people. “The Government’s Macroeconomic Stabilization Program and National Development Plan for 2018–22 are rightly focused on growth-friendly fiscal consolidation, greater exchange rate flexibility, and structural reforms to boost productivity. In this context, I commended the Government for their determined efforts to reduce the large budget deficit and the Banco Nacional de Angola for an orderly transition to a more flexible exchange rate regime.

Progress on domestic revenue mobilization will also be important to help keep government debt on a sustainable path.



“Economic diversification in sectors other than oil is central to the success of the Government’s development strategy.

Key reforms in this area include improving the business climate, fostering competition in domestic markets, curbing monopolies, and leveling the playing field for foreign direct investment. Just as important is developing a social safety net to protect the most vulnerable and to generate equal opportunities across Angolan society.

“I strongly support the Government’s focus on improving governance and combating corruption by strengthening checks and balances and tackling impunity and cronyism. I am also especially pleased that, under the recently approved program supported by the IMF, the Government is committed to improve gender issues.

“Indeed, the program, in the amount of US\$3.7 billion, is designed to support the implementation of the authorities’ policies by providing substantial resources and policy advice, coupled with technical assistance. With this program, the authorities aim at resuming sustainable economic growth, and improving the social conditions for all in Angola.

“I would like to reiterate the IMF’s strong support for Angola and I look forward to continuing our productive partnership. “Finally, I wish to thank the Angolan people for their generous hospitality and for welcoming me to their beautiful country.”

SOURCE: IMF



Cooperation

ANGOLA PREPARES TO END DOUBLE TAXATION WITH CHINA, UAE AND Portugal

Luanda | January 16, 2019



The Angolan parliament on Tuesday, January 15 in Luanda, approved a set of documents related to agreements to eliminate double taxation and prevent income tax evasion with China, the United Arab Emirates and Portugal. The move was approved by the Economic and Financial Affairs, Constitutional and Legal Matters, Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Angolan Communities Abroad of the National Assembly, according to the Angop news agency.

The Secretary of State for Cooperation, Domingos Vieira Lopes, noted that these agreements will allow an increase in investments in the country in various sectors, helping in the process of diversification of the Angolan economy. “It is a climate of confidence that is created between the states in terms of investments,” said Vieira Lopes, according to whom business owners are heavily affected by double taxation when they are not covered by such agreements.

The specialised parliamentary committees also approved the draft resolution of the 4th Amendment to the Convention on the Coverage of Credit Risks for the Export of Goods and Services of Portuguese Origin to Angola, with a view to simplifying negotiations on future financing. The amendment proposes to raise the maximum ceiling for credit coverage, currently set at 1 billion euros, to 3 billion euros. The text also mentions the extension of the scope of the coverage, which includes not only bank financing, but also guarantees of credits or finance insurance granted by other financial institutions to the Republic of Angola, as well as credit terms for 10 years, compared with seven years as things stand.

In November 2004, the Angolan State signed a Convention on the Coverage of Credit Risks for the Export of Goods of Portuguese Origin to Angola, which was the subject of three amendments in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Under the terms of the agreement Portugal undertakes to cover the risks of credit granted for the export of goods and services originating in Portugal and destined for the Republic of Angola through credit insurance company Cosec.