



EDITORIAL

Angola in the focus of an intense diplomatic activity

Since the advent of peace in Angola in 2002 Angola's role has been becoming increasingly important in the political and diplomatic life. This sub-regional, regional and international protagonist role stems from its political history, from its geopolitical et geoeconomical configuration and of the success of the peace process and reconstruction. Angola's geographic situation between Central and Southern Africa confers a regional and sub-regional advantage to the country.

The internal conflict in Angola, during nearly 27 years and the conflicts in South-West Africa have placed Angola at the historic forefront, enabling it to participate in the regional and international political game.

It is worth mentioning that since its independence in 1975, Angola was playing an important role in the independence of Namibia, in the termination of the apartheid policy in South Africa, in the stabilization of the Republic of Congo and that of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Therefore, we are talking about an essentially political, diplomatic and military role, and, since 2006, this role has been spreading to the economic and commercial sphere also, while gaining more and more continental and international momentum.

Actually, Angola was elected twice non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations and plays a very active part at regional organizations' level. Also, Angola is a candidate for a new mandate to become non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Its diplomacy is very keen to find solutions through negotiations, particularly regarding the countries of the Great Lakes Region, while assuring its presidency, but also in Guinea-Bissau, Egypt, Sudan and in the Central African Republic.

Regarding the recent diplomatic events we have to highlight the Angolan Head of State's official visit to the Vatican, the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister in Angola, the 48-hour visit of the American State Secretary John Kerry in Angola, as well as all the political and diplomatic consultations on the Great Lakes Region.

Apart from the above mentioned subjects, this third Newsletter will also focus on the reinforcement of the bilateral cooperation with Hungary regarding higher education and the latest Africa Day celebration, where our Embassy has participated with great enthusiasm.

By

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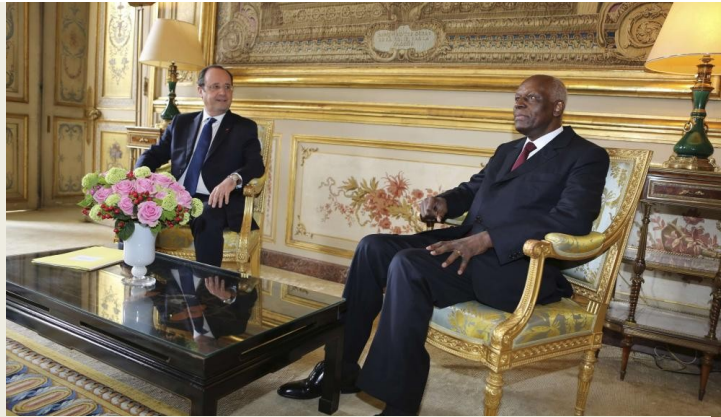


H.E. the Ambassador of Angola in Hungary

Lizeth N. S. Pena

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French President François Hollande and his Angolan counterpart José Eduardo dos Santos at the Élysée April 29, 2014

VISIT OF THE ANGOLAN PRESIDENT IN FRANCE AND THE VATICAN

President José Eduardo dos Santos has effectuated an official visit to Paris between April 28 and 30, 2014, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of France, François Hollande. Therefore, this is a landmark visit that shows the wish of both Heads of State to give a new impulse to the bilateral cooperation.

The program of the Angolan President in Paris was particularly full and rich in symbols. After the ceremony of military honors at the Invalides, President José Eduardo dos Santos was received in the Elysée Palace by his French counterpart François Hollande.

The private reception at the Élysée, followed by an official lunch, took place in the presence of cabinet members of both countries. During this meeting, the French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and his Angolan counterpart Georges Rebelo Chicoti signed a cooperation agreement on higher education and scientific research.

Benefitting from this visit Angola and France have deepened their position regarding the situation in Africa. At political, diplomatic and regional security level France considers Angola as a strategic ally. The two countries have agreed to follow with particular attention the situation in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo and to work intensively for a peaceful solution of these conflicts.

The Angolan President was also received at the Senate by its president Jean- Pierre Bel. According to various analysts, the official visit in France was a big political and diplomatic success, which marks a turning point in the relations between the two countries.

Certain diplomatic sources affirm « *it's about a historic visit during which Paris and Luanda have renewed and relaunched their relations at highest level* ». It was nearly two decades ago that an Angolan President has effectuated an official visit in France.



Speech of the Angolan President at the Economic Forum at the Quai d'Orsay



PRESIDENT JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS WAS RECEIVED IN THE SAINT PETER BASILICA BY HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis receives the Angolan president and his wife

Friday, May 2, 2014, President José Eduardo dos Santos was received in the Saint Peter Basilica by His Holiness, Pope Francis, with whom he discussed the cooperation between Angola and the Holy See.

On this occasion, the Angolan President was accompanied by his spouse and an important ministerial delegation. The Pontiff Maximus and the Angolan President have tackled questions related to the relations of Angola and the Catholic Church, as well as the peace in Africa.

The two parties have also examined the questions related to the peace in the region, the fight against poverty and the reduction of social gaps, the justice and have paid particular attention to the conflicts ravaging the Continent. At the end of these meetings the minister of External Relations of Angola stressed that Angola and the Holy See envisage signing a general cooperation agreement.

We would like to remind that during this visit the Angolan President also met with the State Secretary of the Vatican, cardinal Pietro Parolin, accompanied by Mgr. Dominique Mamberti, State Secretary for the Relations with the Foreign States.

« During these cordial meetings, said a communiqué of the Vatican, they brought up the good relations between the Holy See and the Republic of Angola. In particular, the project of a bilateral agreement was mentioned, concerning the legal status of the Catholic Church in Angola.

» In this context, « they did not miss to stress the important support offered by the Church to the country with its institutions, in the fields of education and health ». During the following exchange of presents on Friday, the President offered the Pope a statuette of the Thinker, symbol of the Angolan culture, and a scale model of the Sanctuary of Notre-Dame of Muxima, situated in the municipality of Icolo and Bengo, in the province of Luanda.

On his part, the Pope offered the President a locket of Saint Martin in bronze on which we can read the following inscription: « *The angel of peace - conqueror of Evil* ». He also offered a copy in Portuguese of his apostolic exhortation « *Evangelii gaudium* ».

The Angolan Head of State continued his visit by going to the Basilica of Saint Marie Major where he paid tribute to the grave of António Manuel Nvunda, known as « O Negrita », special envoy of the Kingdom of Congo to the Vatican, in 1604.



The Angolan President and His Holiness exchange gifts



CHINESE PRIME MINISTER ON OFFICIAL VISIT IN ANGOLA



The Chinese Premier arrives at the airport in Luanda

A historic official visit

The Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang has effectuated an official visit in Angola, the first of its kind made by a Chinese government head to this country in South-West Africa since eight years. It is also the first tour of Mr. Li in Africa since his investiture in 2013.

The Chinese Prime Minister was welcomed at the international airport 4 de Fevereiro by the Vice-President of the Republic, Manuel Domingos Vicente, accompanied by the Angolan Minister of External Relations Georges Rebelo Chicoti and the Governor of the province of Luanda, Bento Bento. Mr. Li Keqiang's visit, the first since setting up his government team in 2013, is part of an Africa tour to four African countries, such as Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya, apart from Angola.

During his stay in Luanda the Chinese Prime Minister has participated at the official bilateral meetings between the Angolan and Chinese delegations, which has enabled the governments, enterprises and financial institutions to sign a series of economic and commercial agreements, in particular an agreement on the suppression of visas in the diplomatic and official government passports.



Bilateral meeting between Angolan and Chinese authorities in the presence of the Chinese Premier and the Angolan President

The civil conflicts ravaging the country and the political instability for more than two decades have ruined the near totality of the national infrastructure. Since the end of the civil war in 2002 the Angolan economy has experienced a rapid development thanks to the oil exploitation and the establishment of massive reconstruction programs.

China has actively participated in the Angolan post-war reconstruction, playing a primordial role in the construction and reparation of the Angolan infrastructure, such as the highways, railways, power stations and ports.

In 2013, the volume of the trade exchanges between the two countries has reached 36 billion dollars, and the Chinese investments accumulated in Angola at the end of the year have surpassed eight billion dollars. Angola has become the second biggest trade partner of China in Africa and its biggest oil supplier of the continent.

China considers Angola its priority partner

In his conversations with the Angolan Head of State the Chinese Prime Minister has declared that « *China considers Angola a priority partner in its cooperation policy with Africa. The country is a friend, genuine and trustworthy and that is why I am inviting President José Eduardo dos Santos to visit our country.* »

He has expressed his wish that during said visit of the Angolan President in China the two countries should establish at highest level the cooperation fields of common interest to both countries and plan long-term cooperation projects, while hoping that by then, agreements of investment protection will have been signed by the two countries.

The Chinese leader has specified that from the more than one million Chinese working in Africa 260 000 work and live in Angola. He has advised to respect the laws of the country and the local traditions.

The Angolan President stresses the convergence of the positions between the two countries

On his part the Angolan President has stressed the convergence of the points of view between China and Angola at international level and in all the fields concerning international security. He has specified:

« *Our points of view converge in important matters which unsettle the international community, in particular the fields regarding peace and understanding between the countries, international cooperation, reforms of the UN and the Security Council. In all these matters Angola advocates the African position, which, on the other hand, are supported by China.* »

The Angolan Head of State has indicated that peace and stability as well as dialogue and negotiations were essential conditions to develop relations between nations and create economic and social prosperity for every country.

He has emphasized that « *it is the wish of the Angolan Government to continue the dialogue and the diplomatic concentration with China, so as to guarantee the security of the Gulf of Guinea and to create the necessary conditions for all parties concerned to consolidate peace in the Great Lakes Region, in the Central African Republic, Nigeria and in South-Sudan.* »

The Angolan Head of State has stressed that China, as permanent member of the Security Council of the UN has to assert its influence so that the peacekeeping forces in Africa dispose of the necessary resources to accomplish their mission. He added that the Angolan candidacy to the post of non-permanent member of the Security Council of the UN aims at using its position and to contribute to the peace and international security, which are indispensable postulates in the good functioning of the system of international relations.

We would like to remind that the diplomatic relations between China and Angola were established in 1983 and that cooperation between the two countries has been increasing ever since, particularly after the end of the civil war in Angola. China has financially supported the reconstruction of Angola, devastated by a conflict during more than four decades

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JOHN KERRY'S VISIT TO ANGOLA LAUNCHES BILATERAL COOPERATION

The U.S. State Secretary paid a 48-hour visit to Angola from May 4 to 5. He met with the President, his counterpart for External Relations, and also with officials of U.S. companies operating in Angola.

John Kerry received by the Angolan President

On Monday, May 5, the Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos received in Luanda the U.S. State Secretary, John Kerry.

John Kerry's visit to Angola was to deepen on the one hand political and diplomatic relations, on the other hand the economic cooperation between Angola and the United States. The chief of the U.S. diplomacy, who was visiting Angola for the first time since his appointment to this position in 2013, wanted to approach the issues related to the peace process in the Great Lakes Region, which Angola is chairing, from January 2014.

The U.S. delegation headed by John Kerry was composed by Deputy State Secretary for African Affairs, Linda Thomas Grenfield; the U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russell Feingold; the U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Donald Boothbem; as well as the Ambassador-at-Large and Assistant to the Secretary of State for Global Women's Affairs Catherine Russell.

After his meeting with President Dos Santos, State Secretary John Kerry declared: "Angola is committed to making the most of this moment increasingly through an important role as leader in the region and particularly on security issues".

John Kerry has emphasized the role of the Angolan Head of State regarding the peace in Africa. He stressed: "Angola is playing a central role – an integral role, really - in bringing African nations together and in leading them towards an enduring peace, we hope, in the Great Lakes Region". Furthermore, he congratulated "President Dos Santos for his personal work and commitment to that effort, for his leadership, and particularly for the International Conference on the Great Lakes".

John Kerry also went through the bilateral cooperation between the two countries and stressed that « Angola is a very important partner in the region, and the relations between Angola and the United States are, in fact, moving on an upward trajectory and getting stronger with each meeting that we have".

At the meeting with the State Secretary the Angolan Minister of External Relations Georges Chicoti has emphasized that they talked, among other things, about oil issues and also about the opening of a credit line of \$ 600 million, given by the Ex-Im Bank to finance the purchase of airliners for the Angolan company TAAG, and also about other projects of national interest.

On his side John Kerry has expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the Angolan economy and believes that this represents new opportunities for the Angolans. He announced that "in the near future the Commerce Department will open a commercial service office" in Luanda.

The official visit of the U.S. State Secretary is part of the political, diplomatic and economic cooperation between the two countries and the high-level consultations, particularly on the Great Lakes crisis.

During his visit John Kerry has reiterated the invitation to the Angolan President to participate at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit to be held in August in Washington.

Let us remember that the diplomatic relations between the United States and Angola were established on May 19, 1993. This date marks a turning point in the relations between the two countries, based on respect and the defense of common interests.

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DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

DIPLOMATIC TOUR OF THE ANGOLAN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Minister Georges Rebelo Chicoti paid a working visit from 13 to 16 May 2014 to three African countries in the Great Lakes Region, namely Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

The visit of the head of the Angolan diplomacy aims at strengthening cooperation between the countries of the region on the basis of friendship and solidarity between peoples, what leads to a good neighborhood. He was the bearer of the message of the Angolan President José Eduardo Dos Santos to his counterparts from Burundi and Rwanda, in order to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation among member countries of The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The objective of President dos Santos' message was to ensure his counterparts about the political and diplomatic progress regarding topics approached at the fifth summit of the ICGLR about peace, stability, promotion of progress and prosperity in the Great Lakes Region.

During his interviews the Angolan minister reviewed with his interlocutors bilateral and regional issues, in particular the continuing instability in the Central African Republic, the situation in South Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Burundi, he met his counterpart Laurent Kavakure and participated at a meeting with members of the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR, chaired by Ntumba Luaba. In Rwanda, the Minister was received in audience by President Paul Kagame and met with his counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Luoise Mushikiwabo, with whom he has signed several legal cooperation instruments, in particular a cooperation framework agreement, an agreement to establish a bilateral commission of cooperation and a memorandum of understanding and regular political and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries. These agreements aim at strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in economic and trade fields, promotion and protection of investments, airline services, justice, communication and information technologies. In Uganda, Minister Chicoti met his counterpart Sam Kutesa with whom he has signed two agreements, namely an agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation and an agreement on the establishment of a bilateral cooperation committee.



Georges Chicoti received in audience by Rwandan President Paul Kagame





MARY ROBINSON AND GREAT LAKES REGION



MARY ROBINSON, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Special Envoy of the General Secretary of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson paid an official visit to Angola on May 7, 2014, to analyze with the Angolan authorities the situation in the Great Lakes Region.

During her visit, the Special Envoy of the United Nations held talks with the Vice-President of the Republic of Angola, Manuel Vicente and the Minister of External Relations, Georges Rebelo Chicoti.

During the meetings, Mary Robinson praised the positive role of Angola who chairs the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). In particular, the Special Envoy has highlighted the issue of repatriation of members from the M23 to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Special Envoy of the UN General Secretary for the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson, has congratulated to the commitment of Angola in the leadership of the regional organization.

Let us remember that Angola has been chairing rotational presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) since January 2014. The ICGLR is actually composed of 12 member countries, which are: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

The organization was established in November 2004 with the signing of the Declaration of Dar Es-Salaam, about peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes Region.

During her meetings, Mary Robinson has reviewed the 2014-2018 action plans, and stressed the importance of the Defense Ministers' meeting of the region, planned for this June 2014, during which issues of peace and security in the region will be analyzed. Foundation of a conference for private investments in the Great Lakes Region, scheduled for the end of this year, will be laid in the above mentioned meeting.

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Kwanza



Dollar

ANGOLA REINFORCES THE DE-DOLLARIZATION PROCESS OF ITS ECONOMY

THE CHALLENGES OF THE DE-DOLLARISATION

The Angolan economy was characterized by a very strong dollarization. According to the governor of the Angolan National Bank (BNA), José de Lima Massano, the dollar represented 82% of the taxes in 2001 and, in a fairly spontaneous way, the national currency was substituted by the American dollar at the three levels of its functions, that is: a means of privileged payment, the unit of accountancy and the monetary reserve.

According to the governor José de Lima Massano, this was caused by the conjunction of several parameters, particularly the economic and social instability before the advent of peace and the influence of the mining and oil sector.

Since ten years the foundations of the economy have been stable, leading to a macro-economic stability in particular thanks to the reduction of the inflation rate, to a growth rate supported by the GDP and to the increase of the international monetary reserves.

The governor of the National Bank explains that maintaining the macro-economic stability requires a solid banking system which is the base “par excellence” of the de-dollarization process. In fact, the Angolan National Bank has launched a de-dollarization process of the domestic market with the aim to allow the kwanza to regain its former functions and become the only money used for payments on the local market. The dollar would solely be used within the frame of exterior transactions.

We have to stress that the use of the dollar « quasi as national currency » has made the cost of living more expensive in the country. According to the economic theory, in a controlled monetary system we have to have a correlation between the value of the money and the real economic level of the country. In this context, therefore, it goes without saying that the level of the economic production of Angola, the creation of its wealth and the buying power of its population are on this side of the value of the dollar on the market.

At one point, this disparity would be likely to dislocate the economy of the country by provoking an inflation of the national currency and by reducing the competitiveness of its industry, which would lead to an overvaluation of the currency in respect of its economy.

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BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND HUNGARY



Zsolt Németh, former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Hungary during an official visit in Angola

Bilateral relations between Angola and Hungary are taking gigantic steps in various sectors. This advance is mostly due to the visit in Angola of His Excellency, Zsolt Németh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, in January of this year (see Newsletter N° 2, Jan, Feb. & March 2014). This visit has allowed for many issues that have been dormant for several years, to unfold. Thus the following steps were taken:

In the education sector, an agreement regarding an Educational Exchange Program was signed between the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary on April 3 of this year, in the city of Budapest. This agreement aims to offer Angolan students a scholarship from the Hungarian Government. Apart from this, a draft of a more extended Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Higher Education between the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary is being canvassed by both parties.

In the economical field, two agreements are also under way: one is a Memorandum of Understanding between ANIP (Angolan National Agency of Private Investment) and HITA (Hungarian Investment and Trade Agency). A draft of this document was already elaborated and is being perused by both parties. A Draft Agreement of Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of Hungary and the Executive of the Republic of Angola is equally being considered. All this documents are about to be signed and were just waiting for the Hungarian Government to be formed.

In the oil and gas sector, talks between the Hungarian oil company MOL-Magyar Olaj and the Angolan National society of oil SONANGOL are progressing satisfactorily, and an agreement will most probably be signed shortly. MOL, which had operated in Angola through its subsidiary INA from 1980 onwards, intends to extend its activities into the oil and gas sector in Angola.

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CELEBRATING AFRICA DAY IN BUDAPEST



Under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Hungary, H. E. Mr. János Áder, Africa Day was celebrated on May 29, 2014. The reception that has become one of the most important diplomatic events in Hungary, took place under the auspices of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry. In a short welcome speech, the guest of honor, Foreign Minister H.E. János Martonyi stressed the world's global opening policy towards the African continent's tremendous possibilities and challenges. He greatly enjoyed the program. Visited the stands and tasted African culinary specialities. H.E. Lounès Magramane, the doyen of the African diplomats in Hungary, has expressed his hope that the Africa policy will keep benefitting from the new Hungarian structure of the Foreign Ministry. Actually, two Hungarian Trade and Cultural Centers (HTCC) will open soon in Malawi and Gambia, and Gambia has every potential to become a new tourist destination for Europeans.

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This year reflects the growing worldwide awareness for „The Black Continent” in general. Against this background, Africa Day was a great success, a memorable event. We have received very positive feedback, people were especially impressed by the prime location right in the heart of Budapest, just off Heroes’ Square. They have equally congratulated us on the excellent organization, the varied and colorful African exhibit stands, the interesting program and the delicious African food and drinks. More than 800 guests have accepted our invitation. The venue, the magnificent Agricultural Museum with its historic background and its elegantly sweeping staircase once more proved to be a grandiose and elegant location for Africa Day.

A special tribute has been paid to the recently deceased Egyptian Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Ashraf Mohsen Mohamed.

As usual, nearly the whole diplomatic corps and many other illustrious persons honored the reception. This is all the more significant, since Azerbaijan’s National Day reception was held immediately before our event. “The success of the event and the many participants also illustrate Hungary’s renewed growing interest for Africa” – said Mr. Sándor Balogh, president of the African-Hungarian Union.

The cultural program was a real cavalcade: in its vertiginous dance performance the Angolan group „Mulemba” showcased the country’s different historic stages. The sensuous Egyptian belly dancers enchanted all those present, courtesy of the Embassy of Egypt. Everyone loved the impetuous dance of the well-known young Hungarian folk dancers „Csillagszemű táncgyűttes”. The Senegalese Nbay Ndiay and his drummers came up with a buoyant and energetic drum performance. Many thanks for the performers.

The raffle offered valuable prizes for the winners, including trips to Egypt and another African destination.

The 15 African exhibit stands provided interesting glimpses into the African countries in question with a rich variety of colorful pictures, statuettes, handicrafts, jewelry, pottery and African everyday objects.

The African Buffet proved to be worthy to its rich tradition: it was exotic, varied and delicious and attracted many people. The cooks of 9 African countries made a fantastic effort to the delight of all the guests. Even rare delicacies found several tasters.

The fully equipped drinks corner – courtesy of one of our main and true sponsors, African-Hungarian Union (AHU), was another center of attraction. The drinks offered by AHU represent an important amount.

There were several representatives of the media and photographers present, who will inform about this great diplomatic event accordingly, as they did every year: Economic Radio, ATV, Diplomata Magazine, Diplomacy and Trade, etc.

This colourful event truly confirms the highly interesting potential of the African Continent.



A show of African dance

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