

# **EIGHTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC**

## **MINDELO DECLARATION**

### **Preamble**

We, the Ministers of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, hereinafter referred to as “the Zone”, meeting in Mindelo on the occasion of the Eighth Ministerial Meeting of “the Zone”;

1. Recalling the United Nations’ General Assembly Resolution 41/11 of October 1986, which declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region situated between Africa and South America, a “Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic”, as well as the other relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions;
2. Recalling also all the Declarations and Plans of Action adopted at the previous Ministerial Meetings of Member States of the Zone.
3. Aspiring for the South Atlantic to be a region recognized as an example of peace and dialogue among nations, believing that it should be preserved from extra-regional political tensions, and expressing our common goal to resolve threats to international peace and security within the region.
4. Welcoming the meetings of Senior Officials of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, reiterating the view that this initiative should be held annually, with a view to intensifying dialogue and cooperation among Members of the Zone on issues of relevance to the Zone and to the international agenda, and recalling the conclusions of the Brasilia Round Table held in 2010 with a view to further refining the identification of areas for enhanced cooperation among Member States of the Zone;
5. Reaffirming the role of the Zone as a forum for increased integration among its Member States and reiterating the commitment to further strengthen dialogue and

cooperation within the Zone and with organizations and mechanisms integrated by Member States, such as the African Union and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR);

6. Recalling that the Africa-South America Summits have recognized ZPCSA as an important instrument for promoting peace and security and encouraged continued dialogue and cooperation within the Zone, and acknowledging, in this regard, the Malabo Declaration, adopted at the third Africa-South America Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 20-23 February 2013, which welcomed the decision of the Ministers of ZPCSA to consolidate the South Atlantic as a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and the commitment of its Member States to the promotion of peace and security, democracy, sustainable development, economic prosperity, social inclusion, cultural integration and solidarity;
7. Underlining the need to build a world order based on a multipolarity of cooperation and solidarity, and expressing our firm commitment to contribute to the achievement of this goal through cooperation in the Zone and in our relations with other organizations and mechanisms, for the benefit of international peace and security;

### **Purposes and Principles**

8. Reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and our full respect for International Law, including the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity, settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states;
9. Reiterate that the South Atlantic must remain a region committed to promoting peace, security, cooperation, democracy, respect for human rights, sustainable development, economic prosperity, socioeconomic inclusion and cultural integration and solidarity among the Member States of the Zone;
10. Stress the need to continue to preserve the South Atlantic region free from the scourge of war and the instability of armed conflicts, as well as to work together in addressing common challenges faced by the region, including transnational organized crime, hybrid threats, piracy, drug trafficking, terrorism, illegal,

unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), biopiracy, and environmental crimes, among others;

11. Reiterate the commitment of the Member States of the Zone to democracy and political pluralism and to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and in this regard welcome the contribution made by the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission;
12. Reaffirm that the Zone must be a forum for the development of cooperation among its Member States in areas such as maritime domain awareness, science and technology, education, capacity building, coastal surveillance, environment, public security, defense, strengthening of national institutions, trade, sports, tourism, economy, communications, transport, culture and political dialogue, recalling the strong potential the South Atlantic presents for the socio-economic development of the Member States of the Zone;
13. Recall the decision to continue to promote enhanced dialogue, cooperation initiatives and collaboration for the direct benefit of all Members of the Zone, and in this regard have agreed on the Mindelo Action Plan which is attached to this Declaration;
14. Stress that the implementation of the objectives of the Zone requires the strengthening of capacities of its Member States, including through technical cooperation in the areas referred to in paragraph 12;

### **Global Governance**

15. Welcome the ongoing efforts aimed at reforming the United Nations in order to render the Organization better equipped to deal with the current challenges to international peace and security. In this regard, call for an urgent reform of the Security Council –an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations –and express support for its enlargement in order to make it more broadly representative for developing countries, efficient and transparent and, thus, to further enhance its effectiveness, its legitimacy and the implementation of its decisions.

Moreover, consider it essential to revitalize the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

16. Calling for a more representative international financial architecture, with an increase in the voice and representation of developing countries, which are significant contributors to the global economy;
17. Further welcome the efforts made for permanent representation of the African Union to the G20 and thank all partners that already expressed support for its realization.
18. Noting the need to fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern in a consistent manner and stress the importance of full and consistent cooperation by all members of the international community.

### **Disarmament**

19. Reiterate our commitment to consolidating the South Atlantic as a Zone of Peace and Cooperation, free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and call upon other States to recognize it as such;
20. Reaffirm that the very existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continues to pose a grave threat to humankind and to instigate tension and mistrust among peoples;
21. Reaffirm also that the advancement of the multilateral disarmament agenda – in particular the need to fulfill the nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT – is a matter of high priority for the Member States of the Zone;
22. Express our support for the conclusion of a legally-binding comprehensive framework of mutually reinforcing instruments, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention, that lead to effective, irreversible and transparent nuclear disarmament with a view to achieving the objective of complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. Such a framework should include clearly defined benchmarks, timelines, and be backed by a strong system of verification;
23. Remain concerned about the danger to humanity posed by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used, and recall the expression of deep concern by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons;

24. Note that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are inextricably linked, requiring continuous and irreversible progress on both fronts;
25. Highlight the importance of the Plan of Action agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in particular the steps by the Nuclear-Weapon-States to fulfill their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, regret that the Tenth NPT Review Conference was unable to achieve consensus on a final outcome document, and express support to the process towards the Eleventh Review Conference, which can make a significant contribution to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
26. Recall the 1994 Declaration of the Zone on the Denuclearization of the South Atlantic adopted by the Third Ministerial meeting and accordingly undertake all efforts to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories and jurisdictional waters the testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition, receipt, storage, installation, deployment and possession of any nuclear weapon, as well as to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, any of these activities in the South Atlantic; in this sense, call on the international community to adhere to the status of the Zone;
27. Note with appreciation the contribution of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and that both this Treaty and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) are in force and in this regard urge the international community to fully observe the denuclearized status of the Zone;
28. Also note with appreciation the contribution for more than 30 years of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), the only existing bi-national organization of safeguards in the world;
29. Reaffirm the commitment to nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and in this regard, reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Member States of the Zone to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty;
30. Express their continued support to a successful convening of the Conference on the Establishment of a Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons and All Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East;
31. Stress the need for the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light

Weapons in All its Aspects, and support efforts to curb the illegal flow of arms and ammunition, particularly within the Zone;

32. Underline the importance of regulating the legal trade in conventional arms, including small arms, light weapons, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, welcome the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, on 24 December 2014, as well as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 22 January 2021, recognize that several members of the Zone are Parties to both Treaties and urge States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to them;
33. Urge States that have not done so to sign, ratify and implement the “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction” and to cooperate in the field of demining and on issues relating to international cooperation and assistance, including victim assistance;
34. Note the important contribution of the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as of the Biological Weapons Convention to global disarmament efforts;
35. Recall the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly related to a nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and welcome the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco (The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, 14 February 1967) Rarotonga (The South Pacific Nuclear Free-Zone Treaty, 6 August 1985) Bangkok (The Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon – FREE ZONE, 15 December 1995) and Pelindaba (Pelindaba Treaty – The African Nuclear Weapon FREE ZONE Treaty) are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;
36. Reaffirms its commitment to initiate the process for accession to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and to encourage States that are not yet parties to it, to proceed with its ratification or accession, with the firm intention of disarmament, which will contribute for the maintenance of peace and international security;

### **Peace and Security**

37. Reaffirm the importance of preventive diplomacy, mediation, good offices, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding for the maintenance of international peace and security as well as their key role in avoiding the escalation of disputes into conflicts and in advancing conflict resolution;
38. Reaffirm further the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, disarmament and nonproliferation, and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the

maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regards to conflict prevention and resolution;

39. Reaffirm also our commitment to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, and welcome the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2427 (2018), which provided a framework for the prevention of grave violations against children in armed conflict situations. Reaffirm also our commitment to the promotion of food security in the context of armed conflicts and welcome the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018), which identified how conflict contributes to hunger;
40. Share a common view that the international community must be rigorous and constant in its efforts to value, pursue and exhaust all peaceful and diplomatic means available in dealing with situations of conflict, in line with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;
41. Recall the 2005 UN Summit Outcome Document and the responsibility of each Member State to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and recognize the helpful contribution by Brazil through the concept of the Responsibility while Protecting as an important complement to the concept of Responsibility to Protect;
42. Stress that special attention must be given to the interdependence between security and development, as they are mutually supportive and key in achieving sustainable peace. Underline that many conflicts have a strong socioeconomic component, which normally aggravates other conflict drivers. Acknowledge the need to ensure that UN activities designed to help countries build peace, promote human rights and the rule of law, reduce poverty, and build strong democratic States are appropriately and effectively integrated;
43. Welcome the positive developments underway in African countries, in particular in those Member States of the Zone in post-conflict situations and invite the international community, including the United Nations, regional and sub-regional organizations and international financial institutions, to complement and strengthen the peacebuilding and development efforts being made by the governments of these countries;
44. Express our willingness to contribute to the enhancement of the existing mechanisms and capacities of prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts within the Zone, as well as support peacebuilding efforts in the increasing number of countries emerging from conflict in Africa, in particular Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR), including through the

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union Framework for Reconstruction and Development;

45. Express support for the leadership of the African Union Peace and Security Council in its efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa according to Chapter VIII of the Charter, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In this regard, commend the progress made in the resolution of conflicts in Africa and call upon the international community to continue to complement efforts aimed at achieving lasting and durable solutions to remaining armed conflicts;
46. Call upon member states of the Zone to strengthen their efforts in the fight against piracy, armed robbery, terrorism as well as drug trafficking and psychotropic substances and in this regard recognize those made particularly in the framework of Yaounde Architecture;
47. Express deep concern over the negative role of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in fueling conflicts and note with satisfaction the ongoing efforts in Africa, in particular by Member States of the Zone, for the implementation of a legal framework aimed at tackling this practice and to this effect, call upon the international community to support this effort and in this regard urge for the protection of critical infrastructure particularly those in the field of oil and gas offshore exploration and production as well as transatlantic fiber and submarine optical cable;
48. Stress the importance of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, to which some Member States of the Zone are major contributors, and in this regard, recognize the potential for cooperation to strengthen the capacity of the Member States of the Zone to participate in peacekeeping operations;
49. Reaffirm also the need to support current peace processes and United Nations peacekeeping operations currently deployed in Member States of the Zone. In this regard, reiterate the need to further explore cooperative mechanisms and opportunities in the field of peacekeeping operations;
50. Stress the importance of international support on issues such as capacity building, logistics, information exchange and cooperation among national peacekeeping training schools and between these Regional Peacekeeping Training Centers, among others;
51. Express support for the full implementation of the zero-tolerance policy regarding cases of crimes committed by personnel deployed in United Nations field missions, particularly in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse affecting women and children,



and welcome efforts being undertaken by Member States of the Zone to address such violations;

52. Recognize the importance of the role of regional and sub-regional peacekeeping operations, such as the current African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) operations, as a complement to the role of the United Nations in this area in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, and stress the need to further develop this role through capacity building and cooperation among the Member States of the Zone;
53. Further welcome the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2033 (2012) regarding cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, commend the African Union for the establishment of a Standby Force and stress the need for the full implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome regarding a 10-year Plan for capacity building with the African Union;
54. Reaffirm the determination of Member States of the Zone to prevent and eliminate piracy, in particular at this moment in those States along the Gulf of Guinea, in accordance with international law, including the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law;
55. Reaffirm also the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;
56. View with concern the continuation of situations that adversely affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of some Member States of the Zone;
57. Support efforts by Member States of the Zone in promoting the principle of settling disputes by peaceful means and in finding negotiated solutions to territorial disputes affecting Member States of the Zone;
58. Call for the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the “Question of the Malvinas Islands (Falkland)” with a view to finding as soon as possible a peaceful, just and durable solution to the sovereignty dispute;
59. Reaffirm GA Resolution 31/49, which requires both parties in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgias Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the maritime surrounding areas, to refrain from taking decisions that

would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly resolutions. In this context, view with concern the development of illegitimate hydrocarbon exploration activities in the area under dispute, as well as the reinforcement of the military presence by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the area, in violation of UNGA Resolution 31/49. Highlight the right of the Member of the Zone to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, including the right of the Argentine Republic to take legal action with full respect for international law and relevant resolutions against non-authorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in the referred area.

## **Defense**

60. Welcome the participation of Defense Ministers in the Ministerial Meetings of the Zone and the engagement of officials of the Ministries of Defense, which allows for new opportunities of cooperation in the field of defense;
61. Remain committed to strengthening cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of defense;
62. Reiterate that the members of the Zone share a common interest in reinforcing the South Atlantic as a Zone of Peace and Cooperation, free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;
63. Welcome the initiatives related to Defense envisaged in the Mindelo Plan of Action and express their commitment to further intensify cooperation in the framework of the Zone;
64. Acknowledge that the initiatives aim to further increase confidence among Member States of the Zone in defense-related issues and to strengthen defense cooperation partnerships, so that the Zone reinforces its presence in the South Atlantic region;
65. Acknowledge further that the initiatives should include mechanisms for efficient exchange of information among competent authorities and relevant institutions, military exercises, official visits, exchanges and other defense capacity-building programs among Member States of the Zone;

66. Acknowledging the importance of the South Atlantic Maritime Area (A.M.A.S) as a reference on issues related to monitoring of maritime and fluvial communication lines, in their respective control areas; and encouraging the strengthening of regional cooperation among its members in areas of common interest, such as Maritime Traffic Naval Control.
67. Welcome multinational exercises among the Member States of the Zone, such as GUINEX exercise, in seeking sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by illicit activities and in strengthening their naval capacities.
68. Acknowledge the importance of maritime safety and security in the region, by providing a credible platform for dialogue, building lasting partnerships and catalysing strategic solutions to fight megatrends and emerging threats, transnational organized crime, violent conflict, violent extremism and terrorism, cyber threats and multifaceted maritime security threats, in accordance with each Member's national legislation in terms of defense and security responsibilities;
69. Acknowledge the need for a mechanism of Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP), aiming to increase the patrolling and monitoring capabilities of the ZOPACAS countries, in view to obtain a comprehensive and permanent maritime situational awareness, allowing greater confidence in guaranteeing maritime security, through joint and coordinated actions;
70. Acknowledge the importance of keeping strategic alignment in the fight against piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, reinforcing the efforts of the countries in the region, in accordance with each Member's national legislation in terms of defense and security responsibilities, supporting the efforts of ZOPACAS member States and within the framework of the architecture of Yaoundé.

### **Development, including Economic and Financial Issues**

71. Express deep concern about the global escalating poli-crisis aggravated by the war in Ukraine, and its economic, environment and social effects on developing countries, including the most vulnerable, the Least Developed Countries/LDC and the Small Island Developing States/SIDS and, in this context, emphasize that austerity policies alone will not solve these problems, that must be accompanied by substantive policies designed to foster economic growth and social inclusion, leaving no one behind;

72. Stress the need to actively participate on the ongoing processes on development financing at the United Nations, conducive to the SDG Summit (NY, September 2023), the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (NY, September 2023) and the Summit of the Future (New York, September 2024), as well as to accomplish the Monterrey and Doha agendas on financing for development, relevant to setting concrete action and bold commitments to be consolidated at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa in 2025);
73. Welcome the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Conference of the Oceans/UNOC, held in Lisbon in 2022, emphasize the importance of conservation and sustainable use of the South Atlantic Ocean and its resources and to that end reaffirm the crucial contribution of the implementation of SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development);
74. Highlight the important contribution of marine scientific research to sustainable development. Stress that, in order to ensure the sustainability of marine ecosystems and establish effective policies for the use of its resources, it is essential to have appropriate scientific knowledge. International cooperation, specially south-south and triangular, capacity building and technology transfer are vital to obtain the scientific knowledge needed for decision-making and policy development and to complement capacities among countries and reduce gaps of funding to undertake marine scientific research.
75. Affirm the need to strengthen international cooperation among Members of the Zone in areas of mutual interest such as marine scientific research, marine spatial planning, the establishment and management of marine protected areas, combatting the effects of climate change, monitoring, fisheries research, ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, the empowerment of women and girls in ocean science and the sustainable use of oceans, and awareness-raising strategies on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of oceans.
76. Welcome the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), which will provide a historic opportunity for ocean research, preservation and restoration. Underline the importance of international cooperation, capacity building, technology transfer and the need to ensure adequate and sufficient funding for ocean research.
77. Acknowledge the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on ocean-based economies and the marine environment and recognize the efforts made by Members of the Zone to continue research activities in order to contribute to a sustainable, inclusive and environmentally resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in which ecosystem-based approaches play a critical role.
78. Recalling that trade is to be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment, and pursuing sustainable development, reaffirm the

foundational principles and objectives of the World Trade Organization as underscored in the Doha Development Agenda. In this regard, reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core;

79. Call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to achieve balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcomes at the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference. In this context, reaffirm the commitment to envision reforms to ensure the proper functioning of the WTO, preserving development issues at the center of multilateral trade negotiations;
80. Reaffirm our willingness to promote increased trade and investment relations within the Zone and remain committed to an open and non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trade system, recognizing its positive impact in addressing the international financial crisis, as well as to growth and development;
81. Commends the steps taken by the Group of 20, to further promote debt-related measures and the implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, calls for all official bilateral creditors to implement these initiatives fully and in a transparent, timely and effective manner, while noting that more needs to be done, including to respond to the needs of countries not covered by current initiatives, including middle-income countries.
82. Recognizes the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;
83. Calls for the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Sustainable Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;
84. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session an action-oriented report on the implementation progress made on international measures and concrete recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda with respect to

matters of debt and debt sustainability and the related efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as their implications for external debt sustainability and development;

85. Recognize the continuing need to promote global growth that produces sustainable benefits for reducing poverty;
86. Reaffirm that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development, and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirm that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;
87. Call upon partners and international financial institutions to support developing countries, namely those most vulnerable to external shocks, such as LDCs, SIDS and MIC, in line with their national priorities and strategies, in achieving their social and economic development by, inter alia, providing debt relief, concessionary aid and grants to support national efforts to enhance fiscal space, and should not impose onerous conditionalities that restrict the policy space of national Governments;
88. Express firm support towards the international recognition of the specificities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and, in this context, welcome the adoption and implementation of an universal Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for the purpose, inter alia, of facilitating access to development funding in concessional terms;
89. Urge for the abolition of unfair trade practices, in particular in agriculture, and express their desire for a more just and fair global trading system for the benefit and welfare of the peoples of the Zone;
90. Acknowledge the potential for trade within the Zone, recognize the need to improve lines of communication and transportation, and express their intention to foster economic and commercial exchanges as well as the role of the private sector and civil society, and agree to actively support all efforts to intensify business cooperation as well as other activities geared towards increasing trade, investment and improving capital flows among Member States of the Zone;
91. Stress that South-South Cooperation is based on solidarity and could be a useful tool for Member States to face the challenges of development and promote economic and social progress. In this regard, emphasize the wide opportunities for cooperation

between Member States in the exchange and strengthening of technical capacities in areas yet identified and prioritized, such as the mapping and exploration of the Area in the framework of the International Seabed Authority, environmental cooperation, cooperation in the area of air and maritime transportation, maritime safety and security, port security, oceanographic research, cooperation between cities and between universities, in the area of information and communication technologies, inter alia;

92. Underline the importance of enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in the prioritized areas of interest and call for the consideration of further proposals for joint actions;
93. Emphasize the clear need to intensify and diversify connectivity between the countries of the Zone, in terms of air and maritime transport and reiterate that synergies must be identified in order to strengthen cooperation, taking into account that the economic enablement of air and maritime connections will demand long-term efforts, and to this end, encourage the consideration of additional initiatives in order to make the connectivity between the two shores of the South Atlantic economically viable;
94. Emphasize that Member States could benefit from the exchange of experiences in the area of seaport efficiency, and to this end, encourage the Zone members to intensify dialogue on such policies, to disseminate good practices and to share experiences gained in implementing projects to improve efficiency in the management and competitiveness of seaports;
95. Underline the need for exchange of information on successful national experiences and lessons learnt, as well as for technology transfer and facilitated access to scientific knowledge in order to foster South-South cooperation in, among others, the areas of Clean Fuels and Environmentally Friendly Energy/Biofuel, Agricultural and Livestock Production, Human Resource Development, Cancer, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Ebola, Biotechnology, Education, Infrastructure Development, Communication Technology, Marine Scientific Research and Fisheries Control and Surveillance;
96. Acknowledge the contribution of Space technology and its applications in the achievement of sustainable development, in particular in areas of relevance to the Zone, such as climate change, disaster management, oceans monitoring, protection of marine resources, and search and rescue activities. Reaffirm the importance of exchange of information and the need to increase cooperation on this topic.
97. Acknowledge the cultural linkages between Africa and South America, and in this regard, encourage the enhancement of cultural cooperation bearing in mind the significance of the African Diaspora in South American countries. Encourage also

greater exchanges among their respective civil society, including among non-governmental organizations related to youth, women, sports, among others;

98. Commend the decision of the African Union declaring 2021-2031 “Decade of African Roots and Diasporas” and express our commitment to collaborate to increase cultural exchanges within the Zone, taking into consideration the objectives of the Decade;
99. Emphasize the role of regional and sub-regional integration in improving international competitiveness of national economies and contributing to their development, and recognize the importance of coordination with regional and sub-regional organizations within the space of the Zone, such as MERCOSUR, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC). In this regard, express the importance of the Preferential Trade Agreement between the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), aimed at enhancing economic cooperation and trade between both regions;

### **Sustainable Development and Climate Change**

100. Acknowledges with concern the negative impacts of the escalating global crises accelerated by the war in Ukraine on the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing that scaling up climate action and eradicating poverty in all their forms and dimensions are the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
101. Welcome the launching in July 2019 of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the world’s largest free trade area, as well as the beginning of its implementation in January 1, 2021, which represent bold steps towards achieving a single market on the continent;
102. Affirm our collective commitment to multilateralism as reflected *inter alia* in the UN Charter, in the declaration adopted at the high level event to mark the UN’s 75th anniversary, in September 2020, and in “Our Common Agenda”, in 2021, by the Secretary General;
103. Remain convinced that consensual decisions achieved through multilateralism are the best foundation for progress in the collective endeavors to achieve sustainable development. In this context, urge for an inclusive and people-centered development agenda, having poverty eradication as its primary goal;



104. Acknowledge the crucial importance of sustainable development throughout civil society and particularly among the youth and that it will have a lasting impact not only on discussions on sustainable development, but also in the way individuals, businesses and Governments understand and act on economic, social and environmental issues;
105. Stress the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals/SDG, and actions agreed upon by the international community;
106. Agree on the need to attach priority to the fight against hunger and poverty and emphasize the need for the international community to fulfill previously agreed funding to the UN Development Agenda with special focus on the SDG, as well as to promote innovative sources of additional funding on a sustainable basis to enable the fulfillment of the internationally agreed development goals;
107. Express concern that, despite important progress, most developing countries are not on track to achieve the SDGs, and in this regard emphasize that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfill the commitments and to address their special needs;
108. Emphasize the need for the international community to fully implement the global partnership for sustainable development;
109. Take note of the report «Our Common Agenda», an agenda of action, designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements – particularly the 2030 Agenda – and make a tangible difference in people’s lives, presenting the Secretary-General’s vision on the future of global cooperation through an inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism and containing recommendations across 4 broad areas for renewed solidarity between peoples and future generations, a new social contract anchored in human rights, better management of critical global commons, and global public goods that deliver equitably and sustainably for all;
110. Highlight the need to strengthen the means of its implementation such as finance, technology, capacity building and trade, as well as the need to enhance systemic issues and the revitalization of the global partnership for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
111. Underscore the need to ensure the monitoring and follow-up processes of the implementation of sustainable development commitments at national, regional and international levels. In this regard, recognize the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as the key follow-up mechanism to the internationally agreed goals and commitments on sustainable development;

112. Reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time to which developing countries, and SIDS in particular, are most vulnerable, reiterate our call for urgent global action and cooperation for an effective global and regional response to fight against the negative effects of climate change and stress the importance of the full implementation of commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its instruments, including the Paris Agreement, with a view to ambitious climate action that help keep the global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius, on the basis of equity and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;
113. Highlight the importance that developed countries honor their unfulfilled finance obligations to mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of climate action in developing countries. They further recognized that the new collective quantified goal on climate finance from developed countries must go well beyond the floor of USD 100 billion per year to provide developing countries with the necessary funding to address adaptation and mitigation gaps;
114. Reiterate their determination to contribute to the successful conclusion of the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement at COP28, in Dubai, later this year, which, as the main mechanism for ratcheting up ambition on all aspects of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, must be effective in identifying implementation gaps within the regime, whilst prospectively laying the foundations for the forward-looking aspects on how to fulfil outstanding gaps in means of implementation for developing countries;
115. Welcome the Brazilian candidacy to host COP30, as the 2025 summit will be key to the very future of the global response to climate change;
116. Stress the importance of enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, including but not limited to biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, chemicals and waste conventions, and the Rio conventions, at the global, regional, subregional, national and subnational levels, in a manner respectful of their respective mandates;
117. Emphasize the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives to achieve the three objectives of the Convention and to implement and monitor progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in an effective and timely manner in order to achieve its targets, goals, 2030 mission and 2050 Vision;
118. Reiterate the firm commitment of the Member States of the Zone with the ambitious outcomes of the processes of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in this regard,

commend the new agreements on Climate Change under the Convention, adopted at the Conferences of the Parties in Paris, Glasgow and Sharm ‘El-Sheikh, to be consolidated in Dubai at the 28<sup>th</sup> COP, December 2023.

### **Oceans and Marine Resources**

119. Underline the relevance of the commitments on oceans and seas taken at the United Nations, namely at the 1st and the 2nd United Nations Conferences on the Oceans/UNOC (NY, June 2017 and Lisbon, June 2022, respectively) and, in this regard, encourage all the Member-States to actively participate in the process conducive to the 3rd UNOC (France, 2024);
120. Recognize the contribution of the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;
121. Welcome the new global agreement-BBNJ (Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) concluded on 4 March 2023, as an important milestone to provide stronger protection of marine biodiversity in the High Seas.
122. Acknowledge that the conservation and sustainable use of marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, considered as common heritage of humankind in the BBNJ Agreement, presents an opportunity for cooperation among the Member States of the Zone. In this regard, the Member States of the Zone recall the need for strengthening capacity-building and access to marine technology, enhanced international cooperation and sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of these resources, in particular for developing countries, in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement;
123. Welcome the First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution in the marine environment that took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022, with an ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.

### **Transnational crime**

124. Express concern at the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea pose to the international navigation, maritime security and economic development of States in the region, recognize the leadership role that the States in the Zone are playing and the need for continued regional coordination of efforts to counter activities of piracy and armed robbery at sea;

125. In this regard, welcome the holding of the Heads of State and Government of the Gulf of Guinea Summit on maritime safety and security that took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 24 and 25 June 2013, which adopted the Code of Conduct concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa, and recall the provisions of Security Council Presidential Statement SC/PRST/ 2013/ Naval Exercise “Grand African Hemo 2022” held in October, 2022;
126. Urge international partners to assist States and organizations of the region for the enhancement of their capabilities to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, including their capacity to conduct regional patrols, to establish and maintain joint coordination centers and joint information-sharing centers, and for the effective implementation of the regional strategy;
127. Concerned with the damage being done to economic development efforts and destruction of essential infrastructure, urge support for multilateral efforts on the development of international legislation to track the origin and sale of stolen crude oil thereof;
128. Express their concern regarding the illicit traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances as well as transnational organized crime and agree that high priority must be given to combating these problems, as they represent a threat to the public security and development of Member States and to the well-being of their peoples;
129. Recognize that transnational organized crime, human trafficking, particularly of women and children, money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation of corruption, piracy, drug trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are interrelated, and emphasize the need for comprehensive and integrated strategies within the Zone to effectively combat these scourges, and in this regard further emphasize that the implementation of national policies and strategies must be complemented by regional and international agreements, including among the Member States of the Zone;
130. Recall the 1996 Decision of the Zone on Drug Trafficking adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting and stress the need for cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries in combating illicit arms and drugs, as well as in reinforcing border security and control, taking into account the principle of common and shared responsibility;
131. Reiterate the commitment in deepening cooperation and articulation of Member States joint actions facing world drug problem;
132. Stress the importance in advancing towards that objective in the framework of an integral approach, considering the reduction of supply and demand in a balanced

manner, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, the respect of human rights and international law;

133. Urge States that have not done so to become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols;
  1. To prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking of humans;
  2. To prevent the smuggling of migrants by land, air, and sea;
  3. To stop the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition.

### **Final provisions**

134. Express gratitude to Brazil, Nigeria, South Africa, the Argentine Republic, Angola for their valuable work as previous coordinators of the Zone from 1998 to 2012;
135. Commend the Government of Uruguay for its valuable work as coordinator since January 2013 and for its contribution to the preparations of this meeting, and agree to continue to implement the follow-up mechanism under the joint leadership of the current and former Chairs of the Zone, as well as the Chair of the subsequent Ministerial Meeting;
136. Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the People of Cabo Verde for their warm hospitality and generosity and the excellent arrangements made for the holding of this Meeting;
137. Agree to strive to hold its Ministerial Meeting on a biennial basis with the support of the UN Secretariat;
138. Stress the importance to continue to convene with the support of the UN Secretariat, annual meetings of the Zone at the margins of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), to review progress made and agree on further actions aimed at promoting the objectives of the Zone, including through the submission of Draft UNGA Resolutions;
139. Welcome with appreciation the offer by the Government of Brazil to host the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Zone;
140. Agree to adopt the annexed Plan of Action and request the current Chair to create the necessary conditions, including institutional ones, for its implementation.

141. Request the Chair of the Zone to transmit the present Declaration and Plan of Action to the UN Secretary General for Appropriate Action.

Issued in Mindelo on April 18th2023

