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Angola

European Parliament resolution on Angola

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Angola, as well as the Sakharov Prize 2001,
 - having regard to the recent resolution on southern Africa adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town, South Africa,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Council in Barcelona (15-16 March 2002) on the developments in Angola since the death of Jonas Savimbi,
 - having regard to the position taken by the UN Security Council on the new peace initiative in Angola,
 - having regard to the statement made by the UN Secretary-General on 25 February 2002,
- A. whereas the death of Jonas Savimbi radically changes the face of the political situation in Angola and may mean that Angola will enter a special phase in its history,
- B. having regard to the recent events in Angola, the government's positive attitude in announcing the interruption of offensive military movements, and the equally positive response at ground level from UNITA's leadership and combatants,
- C. whereas on 28 March 2002 the UN Security Council declared itself favourable to the integral implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, and said it is willing to work with all parties to achieve this goal, undertaking consultations with the government of Angola to find ways to change the sanctions imposed on UNITA by Resolution 1127 (1997), in order to ease the peace talks,
- D. welcoming the signing on 4 April 2002 of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the military leadership of UNITA, based on the 'Memorandum of Understanding' supplementing the Lusaka Protocol, signed in Luena (Moxico province) on 30 March 2002, which represents a major opportunity for lasting peace in Angola,
- E. whereas the abovementioned agreement is based on the Lusaka Protocol of 20 November 1994, and principally on the demilitarisation of UNITA, the conclusion of the formation of the National Armed Forces, the extension of state administration throughout the national territory, the disarming of the civilian population, and other tasks that were interrupted in the wake of the civil war that restarted in 1998,

- F. having regard to the adoption by the National Assembly, on a proposal by the Angolan Government, of an amnesty law, on 3 April 2002,
 - G. whereas UNITA's full integration in the national political scene as a non-armed, freely reorganised political party is essential for the consolidation of the democratic process,
 - H. whereas the legitimacy and credibility of the national peace and reconciliation process demands the effective participation of all stakeholders, political parties and civil society, including the churches that have made enormous efforts to promote this process,
 - I. whereas the situation remains disastrous in humanitarian terms, as 4 million people have been displaced by the war, although the delivery of humanitarian aid has slightly improved in recent months with the abatement of military conflict in some parts of the country, and with greater cooperation from the Angolan armed forces,
 - J. having regard to the inhuman paradox of a potentially very rich country whose population lives in conditions of extreme poverty, which has long been a feature of the suffering of the Angolan people,
1. Welcomes the signing of the 'Lusaka Protocol Complementary Memorandum Towards the Cease of Hostilities and Further Outstanding Military Matters' between the government of Angola and the military leadership of UNITA, done on 4 April 2002 in Luanda, which represents a new era for lasting peace in Angola;
 2. Stresses the major importance of this historic event for southern Africa and for the entire African continent;
 3. Calls on the Angolan government and UNITA to make this ceasefire definitive and irreversible;
 4. Trusts that both the government and UNITA will abide in every way by the undertakings they have entered into, ceasing all military and political hostilities and all forms of intimidation throughout Angola; also trusts that this will make it possible to normalise state administration and institutional life and thus to deepen and complete Angola's transition to full democracy;
 5. Calls on all parties to implement fully the provisions of the ceasefire agreement and of the Lusaka Protocol by establishing political dialogue under the aegis of the United Nations in order to promote lasting peace and stability in Angola; recommends that the UN Security Council gradually should begin to gradually lift the international sanctions against UNITA, in consultation with the government;
 6. Encourages the full integration of UNITA into the national political scene as a freely reorganised, non-armed political party; considers it essential for the continuation of the peace process that UNITA should abandon all military activity and carry out full demilitarisation;
 7. Encourages the government to intensify its dialogue and cooperation with all political forces, civil society and the churches, especially those within COIEPA, in order to involve every Angolan citizen in this peace and reconciliation process;

8. Calls on the government to use this opportunity for peace to give absolute priority to improving the humanitarian and health situation, without discrimination, and calls on the EU and the international community to provide adequate assistance to optimise this national effort;
9. Considers it necessary, as a matter of urgency, to conclude the extension and installation of national administration throughout Angola, so as to create the necessary conditions for the return of displaced communities and their reintegration into their areas of origin, thus enabling them to resume their normal lives;
10. Urges that the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) play an enhanced role in taking responsibility for more than 4 million displaced persons in Angola, and calls on the international community to take further concrete steps to address the existing humanitarian situation in that country;
11. Calls on the Commission, the ACP-EU Council and the UN to support programmes for demining, in order to ensure the free movement of persons, and to promote the conditions required for the revitalisation of the national economy, humanitarian aid, the social reintegration of displaced people, demobilised soldiers, disabled members of the armed forces and war orphans, and the organisation of an international conference of donors for the reconstruction of a peaceful Angola;
12. Calls on the Angolan Government to establish a transparent and accountable mechanism for managing Angola's natural resources, including the diamond and oil trade, so that the income can be dedicated to the financing of global, fair and sustainable development and in the fight against poverty;
13. Believes that free elections must be held in Angola immediately following the restoration of freedom of movement throughout the country, the establishment of the necessary climate of peace and institutional normality, and the conclusion of a period of detailed preparation with a view to implanting a culture of freedom and mutual respect propitious to democratic elections;
14. Calls on the EU and the other international organisations to redouble their efforts in support of programmes for education in the area of democracy and civic rights, in cooperation with the Angolan authorities and the bodies which have contributed to the social effort;
15. Calls for rapid action to investigate the situation of the two Portuguese children who disappeared several months ago;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union, and the Government and Parliament of Angola.