



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY**

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***MINISTER OF FAMILY AND THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN***

*(Circulation to attendees only)*

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(MEETING OF WORLD LEADERS)**

New York Luanda, September 27, 2015

*Submitted in the context of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, but not delivered in person.*

Your Excellencies Presidents of the Republics of Mexico, Denmark and Kenya, co-Chairs of this session,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Representatives of United Nations Agencies,

Distinguished Civil Society and Private Sector Leaders,

Excellencies,

Ladies,

Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to take the floor on behalf of the Government of Angola at this Global Leaders' Summit to reaffirm the political commitment of our Government to effectively accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the attainment of the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Objectives and Targets contained in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development agenda.

Your Excellencies members of the presidency, allow me to congratulate you for skillfully conducting the work of this session, and to assure you of our full cooperation.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude and appreciation to the various institutions of the Angolan Executive Branch, their international partners and the United Nations system agencies, as well as to Civil Society Organizations, NGOs and the Private Sector for their engagement in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and other instruments linked to the empowerment of Women and Gender Equality.

Excellencies,

The Constitution of the Republic of Angola states that "All persons are equal, and no one can be harmed, unfairly privileged, deprived of any right or freed of any duties for reasons of ancestry, sex, race, ethnic origin, color, disability, language, place of birth, religion, or political, ideological or philosophical convictions, level of education, economic or social status, or profession".

In the context of the National Development Policies, the National Development Plan (PND) stipulates that the population, meaning Angolan men and women, must always be the point of convergence of all results, policies and actions to promote development.

With regards to the Promotion of Gender Equality, the general objective of the National Development Plan (PND) is the promotion of equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities for men and women in all areas of economic, social, cultural and political life.

Its policy measures aim to promote the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for men and women, promote all equal-opportunity aspects in employment policies, including reducing occupational segregation and helping reconcile work and family life, as well as counter the persistent under-representation of women in all decision-making spheres, promote equal access and full enjoyment of social rights for men and women, eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2017 and at the other educational levels by 2025, promote equality in civic life and contribute to change gender roles and stereotypes.

### **Excellencies and Dear Participants,**

In compliance with its international commitments, namely CEDAW, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding the Rights of Women in Africa, the SADC Gender and Development Protocol, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and

the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to which Angola is a party, the Angolan Executive Branch has adopted policies to Support Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, as well as to support victims of violence, to Give Due Recognition to Families, to Develop Communities and Promote Rural Women, of which we highlight the following instruments:

- Law 02/05 of July 1<sup>st</sup> on Political Parties;
- Law 25/11 of July 14<sup>th</sup> Against Domestic Violence;
- Presidential Decree No. 26/13 of May 8<sup>th</sup>, approving the Executive Plan to Combat Domestic Violence and its Schedule of Actions for a 4-year period (2013-2017);
- Presidential Decree no. 124/13 of August 28<sup>th</sup>, approving the Provisions of the Law to Combat Domestic Violence;
- Presidential Decree No. 222/13 of December 24<sup>th</sup>, which approved the National Policy on Gender Equality and the Strategy for its Implementation;
- National Program for the Development of Rural Women (approval of working agenda pending);
- Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy (under discussion at Ministerial Departments).

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Concerned with the Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality, the Angolan Head of Government instituted the National Program of Consultations with Rural Women at the level of the country's municipalities in order to ensure better coordination between the Integrated Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Programme and its impact on the lives of women in rural communities, having carried out 395 meetings, heard 44.396 women, and recorded 8.056 statements, culminating in the holding of the National Rural Women Consultation Forum (August 2014) and the preparation of the National Development Plan for Rural Women.

The Head of State also mandated a review of plans and policies related to the percentage of representation of women at all levels to

increase it to at least 40%, which will lead to the updating of Law 02/05 of July 1<sup>st</sup>, and other legislation concerning the representation of women.

In order to ensure greater public mobilization to promote gender equality, the 'Unite', '50-50', 'Zero Tolerance' and 'Together Against Pregnancy and Early Marriage' campaigns were launched in order to prevent acts of violence and traditional practices that violate the rights of women and girls.

The funds used for the implementation of programs and projects on Gender Equality and the Promotion of Women is included in the State budget, as well as in the contributions to United Nations System agencies that work with the Angolan Government.

Moreover, there has been an ongoing debate on Gender-Sensitive Budgeting since 2008, initiated by the Ministry of Family and the Promotion of Women, with the support of UNIFEM and involving Ministerial Departments, Groups of Women Parliamentarians, Provincial Governments and the civil society.

Excellencies,

Finally, on behalf of the Angolan Government, we once again reaffirm our commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, the dignity of families, the advancement of women, and to Angola as a proud country of Peace, Social Justice and Harmony.

**Thank you kindly for your attention.**

**WE STAND TOGETHER!**