



## Meeting with the Delegation from Angola

At the request of the Permanent Mission of Angola to the UN, the NGO Section/OESC held a briefing on 5 March 2007 (DC1-1402) for the delegation from Angola regarding the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) initiative on the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA). The Ambassador of Angola, Mr. Gaspar Martins was present in the meeting. Those who attended included Deputy Governors from the 13 provinces of Angola, officials from Angolan Mission and some representatives of non-governmental organizations based in New York.

Ambassador Gaspar Martins thanked the NGO Section/OESC for organizing the briefing at short notice. He stated that most of the poor in his country live in rural areas where development still has not reached them. His Government has given high priority to rural development for poverty eradication. In this regard, the 2003 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration, which called development partners including the UN system to launch partnerships that support and promote rural development, is very significant. The Government of Angola would be requesting the Council to consider it as its third pilot country of the UNPPA during the 2007 July ECOSOC substantive session in Geneva. Ambassador Gaspar Martins thanked the NGO Section/OESC for considering sending a Mission to Angola in 2007, to assist the Government to identify and establish an appropriate national mechanism for fast tracking partnerships for rural development in his country. He pointed out that some critical areas that require support from international partners are: poverty eradication, health, education, water, alternative sources of energy, infrastructure, gender, and ICT development.

Mr. Abraham Joseph, Focal Point on the UNPPA, welcomed Ambassador Gaspar Martins, the delegation, and the NGO partners. Mr. Joseph explained the genesis of the ECOSOC initiative on the UNPPA, as well as the on-going programmes and activities in the pilot countries of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic. He also spoke on how Angola could take advantage of the Council 2003 Ministerial Declaration to promote partnership for rural development. He further explained the twin concept on which the UNPPA platform operates – “Ownership” and “Partnerships.” Ownership of the UNPPA platform is the responsibility of the national mechanisms. The task of development partners is to promote partnerships in the ECOSOC pilot countries. Mr. Joseph also stressed the importance of effective UNPPA platforms to fast track partnership projects. The role of DESA/OESC is to assist through advocacy and awareness creation to mobilize development partners and to direct potential partners with the national mechanisms. Furthermore, Mr. Joseph explained that at the request of ECOSOC, DESA/OESC assist in preparing the Secretary General’s progress report on the partnerships promoted by the UNPPA in pilot countries.

The NGO partners also made presentations of the partnerships projects they could contribute in Angola.

In the Q&A that followed, the Deputy Governors warmly welcomed the Mission to Angola. They spoke on the existing needs of rural areas, focusing particularly on the rural areas of their respective regions. The Deputy Governors requested that in addition to Luanda, the proposed Mission should also visit the various provinces to see first hand their needs on the ground. In response, Mr. Joseph explained that his task in this Mission is to discuss with the Government of Angola and the Resident Coordinator on how to lay the groundwork to establish the UNPPA platform in order to fast track partnership projects for rural development. The NGO partners who are joining in the Mission may continue to stay further to discuss with Angolan partners. He also pointed out that the NGO Section/OESC is not a funding office, but instead assists in advocacy and awareness creation to promote partnerships in the pilot countries.

In concluding, the Permanent Mission of Angola thanked for arranging the useful briefing and looks forward for support and cooperation with NGO Section/OESC.