



**Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MR. JOSÉ VIEIRA DIAS VAN-DÚNEM
VICE-MINISTER FOR HEALTH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING
& COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN
REALIZING THE TARGETS SET
OUT IN THE DECLARATION OF
COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS**

NEW YORK, 2 JUNE 2006

Check Against Delivery

MR. PRESIDENT,
MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
HONOURABLE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
DISTINGUISHED MINISTERS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS WITH GREAT HONOUR AND SATISFACTION THAT I TAKE THE FLOOR ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON AIDS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, ENGINEER JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS, AND ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING OUR WORK; YOUR PERSONAL ENDEAVOUR HAS LARGELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE RESULTS SO FAR ACHIEVED BY THIS SESSION.

ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE HIS EXCELLENCY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS WELL FOR HIS REPORT WHICH MIRRORS THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY MEMBER STATES THROUGHOUT THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

MY DELEGATION FULLY SUPPORTS THE STATEMENT MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY DENIS SASSOU NGUESO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION.

MR. PRESIDENT,

HIV-AIDS HAS LONG AGO CEASED TO BE A PROBLEM BOUNDED TO SPECIFIC SECTORS, THUS BECOMING A PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS ALL HUMANITY, AND ONE THAT REQUIRES MORE EFFORTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE STRATEGIES AND THE RESULTS SO FAR REACHED. FOR THIS REASON, THIS MOMENT CONSTITUTES A SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE THE COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN THE 2001 DECLARATION ON HIV-AIDS. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO STRESS THE PROGRESS WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS THAT RESULTED FROM A SET OF GLOBAL

AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS SEEKING TO SHARE RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE.

IN THIS PERSPECTIVE, I COMMEND THE COMMITMENT OF UNAIDS AND THE AFRICAN UNION, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS IT MANAGED TO ESTABLISH AMONG ITS MEMBER STATES.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE CREATION OF THE GLOBAL FUND FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA, WHICH HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP TO REDUCE MORTALITY RATES WHILE MAKING POSSIBLE THE ACCESS TO GLOBAL CARE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON TREATMENT WHILE OVERCOMING SOME BARRIERS IMPOSED BY POVERTY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

IN 2004-2005, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, THE CDC AND THE "WHO", CONDUCTED A NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE HIV STATUS OF PREGNANT WOMEN WHO ATTENDED PRE-NATAL CARE, WHICH REVEALED A RATE OF 2,7-2,8% OF HIV-POSITIVITY, VARYING FROM 10,7% IN THE PROVINCE OF KUNENE TO 0,80% IN THE PROVINCE OF BIE. THE MOST HEAVILY AFFECTED GROUP WERE WOMEN BETWEEN 15 AND 29 YEARS OLD.

ACCORDING TO THESE STATISTICS, THE EVOLUTION OF THE AIDS PANDEMIC ASKS FOR AN URGENT MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE SEEKING A FAST AND EFFECTIVE COMBAT TO DEAL WITH THE DIMENSION THE PANDEMIC HAS REACHED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IN 2003, WE APPROVED AND INITIATED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2003-2008, STARTING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM TO CUT VERTICAL TRANSMISSION AND ALLOW HIV-POSITIVE MOTHERS TO GIVE BIRTH TO HEALTHY CHILDREN, AND WITH ACCESS TO ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT FOR PARENTS. IN 2004, WE PROCEEDED TO THE CREATION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFERENCE AND TREATMENT--THE HOPE HOSPITAL--AND IN 2005, WE CREATED THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, WHICH HAS HAD A DEFINITIVE INFLUENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DISEASE

IN ANGOLA, BOOSTING THE EXPANSION OF TREATMENT WITH ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICINE TO 11 OF THE 18 PROVINCES IN THE COUNTRY.

EVEN THOUGH IN AFRICA, JOINT HIV PROGRAMS HAVE IMPROVED HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THIS PANDEMIC SUCH AS PREVENTION AND ACCESS TO MEDICINES, THE RESPONSE IS STILL INCIPIENT. THIS IMPELS US TO APPEAL TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY TO DROP THE PRICES OF ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICINE, INCLUDING NEW FORMULAS STILL IN RESEARCH, IN ORDER TO REACH UNIVERSAL ACCESS UNTIL THE YEAR 2010, AS WELL AS FINANCING FOR VACCINE RESEARCH.

TO CONCLUDE, I REAFFIRM THAT THIS IS A MOMENT OF TRUST AND HOPE AS WE GLIMPSE THE POSSIBILITY TO CHANGE A REALITY THAT STILL SEEMS SO BLEAK TO ALL OF US, BUT IT IS SIMULTANEOUSLY A MOMENT OF MANY CHALLENGES CAUSED BY THE GROWING NEED TO FIGHT THIS PATHOLOGY WHICH HAS THE LARGEST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE NATIONS OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

UNITED, WE WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE IN ORDER TO DULY RESPOND TO THE APPEALS LAUNCHED DURING THIS SESION BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV-AIDS, WHO CLAIM FOR CONCRETE ACTIONS THAT ARE CAPABLE TO JUSTIFY THE POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THIS GREAT ASSEMBLY THAT MY DELEGATION SUPPORTS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.