



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

STATEMENT BY

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FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF
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**AT THE EXPERTS MEETING
OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT
POLICIES OF THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

NEW YORK, 29 JANUARY 2015

**Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee of Experts of the
Committee on Development Policies,**

Distinguished representatives of United Nations agencies and funds,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Angolan Government, I would like to extend our warmest greetings to all in attendance and to thank you for the invitation to attend this meeting where we will discuss Angola's Graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries.

We welcome this event that aims to analyze Angola's eligibility to graduate from the Least Developed Countries, based on the criteria of gross national income *per capita*, human assets index, and economic vulnerability from the time it was found eligible for graduation in March 2012, as well as in light of the "ex ante Impact Assessment of the possible consequences of Angola's graduation from the category of Least Developed Country", prepared by the CDP, and the "Vulnerability Profile of Angola", which was prepared by UNCTAD.

We take this opportunity to thank you for sending us the above mentioned reports for comments and for sharing them, a gesture that demonstrates the excellent level of cooperation and partnership that has characterized the relationship between the Republic of Angola and the various agencies of the United Nations.

We are also pleased with this opportunity to interact with the members of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Development Policies to share our point of view on the graduation process, as well as the progress and constraints in the implementation of our national development programs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Angola was included in the list of Least Developed Countries in 1994, during a critical phase of the long period of armed conflict that the country experienced. This conflict ended in 2002; however the consequences of war are still being felt in a variety of areas. Over the past (almost) 13 years of effective peace and political stability, there has been a concerted effort to secure and consolidate peace, normalize and strengthen the democratic process and build the rule of law, which has created ideal conditions for the implementation of other economic and social measures which have made our country one of the world's fastest growing economies in the last 10 years, while at the same time allowing the country to make significant steps in its reconstruction and in promoting the well-being of the Angolan population.

In this connection, in 2010 the Constitution of the Republic of Angola was approved, which like the previous constitutional laws, reaffirms the fundamental principles of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, in accordance with the main international human rights instruments.

Although the current Constitution safeguards and even expands on fundamental freedoms and rights, the last Universal Periodic Human Rights Review, held in Geneva in October 2014, found that Angola still faces some

challenges in this domain, largely as a result of its social fabric's long exposure to armed conflict, which now reflects itself in some weakness and vulnerability of the institutions and bodies of justice that are in the process of strengthening their capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With your permission, I would like to give a brief overview of the major issues referred to in the two reports prepared by the United Nations on Angola's Graduation process.

After an assessment of the cost/benefit aspects of the special support measures associated with the LDC status and the economic growth and development in the country, we concur with the draft Impact Assessment Report that Angola's graduation should not have major consequences on the current achievements of the country. There are, however, some issues that ought to be given careful consideration, not only in the context of graduation, but also in that of our own development process, especially as regards economic diversification and the reduction of social vulnerabilities.

We would like to stress that the concerns presented by the United Nations do not in fact differ from those that are considered by the Angolan Government as the main challenges to the country's development process, reason why we have designed concrete programs specifically aimed to remedy these problems.

We intend to overcome these problems through the ongoing implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) for 2013-2017, a process that began

a new cycle the country's history and planning system. The following are key among the major National Objectives set out in the National Development Program 2013-2017: (i) Guaranteeing basic requirements necessary for development; (ii) Improving the quality of life; (iii) Integrating youths in active working life; (iv) Private sector development; (v) Integration of Angola in the international context in a competitive manner.

This Plan, which is centered on the motto of "Stability, Growth and Employment", is the first medium-term plan drawn up within the framework of the country's new constitution and which aims for the modernization and sustainability of development, while focusing on the stability, growth, promotion and appreciation of Angolan citizens. This is because without not only economic, but also political, social and institutional stability, there will be no sustained economic growth and without this, there will be no employment, which is crucial for the redistribution of wealth and the improvement of the quality of life of the population.

Also, as you know, Angola conducted its first population and housing census in May 2014, and its preliminary results indicate that the country has 24.6 million inhabitants. The competent bodies in this field continue to work on the analysis of the data and aim to publish the final results by the end of this year.

We now have a good base to prepare a National Population Policy and the National Planning and Territorial Development Policy, which are essential to studying how to improve the enjoyment of economic and social rights for our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Considering the objectives of this meeting, I propose that we focus especially on the objective of Guaranteeing Basic Requirements Necessary for Development, as we believe that in general terms, it responds to **question of how Angola intends to prepare the transition towards graduation**. The Government of Angola believes that the Graduation Process is a natural consequence of gains and successes in the implementation of its Development Plans and Strategies, which will continue to be fully implemented independently of the country's eligibility. We foresee eventual adjustments to prevent the graduation process from posing constraints or obstacles to Angola's natural development process, particularly in the current global economic climate, characterized by sharp decline in oil prices--the country's main export product.

Angola is aware of the great challenges that lie ahead, especially because the country's eligibility for Graduation is founded on the basis of a single criterion, the per capita GNP. In this context, we find that this, combined with the singularities of Angola as a post-conflict country, is sufficient reason to receive increased attention and additional support from international partners, both bilateral and multilateral, so that the country can swiftly make strides in the two remaining eligibility criteria.

Nevertheless, we will continue to work with the United Nations system in the framework of the Graduation Process in light of the next triennial review of the list of LDCs, scheduled for March 2015.

Likewise, we will continue to work arduously and make every effort in our power to overcome our economic vulnerability and improve our human capital index through the implementation of the development strategies set out in the National Development Plan for 2013-2017.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have, in fact, a long and arduous way to go. However, we are ready to face the challenges that emerge. In this connection, we reiterate the importance of continued support and technical assistance from the UN system to aid in our greatest weaknesses, which are the relationship with the WTO, as well as the availability for the evaluation on the extension of time limits, in particular taking into account the country's still weak economic diversification and the fall in oil prices, as already mentioned above, which will greatly decelerate the implementation of projects, and may even suspend some.

To conclude, let me reiterate that our Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva will continue, as they have until now, with the interaction, dialogue and work with the competent bodies of the United Nations so that the ongoing process corresponds to the interests and development goals of the country.

Thank you kindly for your attention.