



**República de Angola**

**STATEMENT BY H.E ANA PAULA DA SILVA SACRAMENTO NETO  
DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE SIXTH PERIODIC REPORT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)**

**Geneva – Switzerland, February 2013.**

***Check Against Delivery***

Madam President,

Distinguished members of the committee

Ladies and gentlemen;

Allow me at the outset on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola to extend our greetings to the members of the Committee, in particular Ms. Nicole Ameline on her election as the Chairperson of this Committee. During this session, the Angolan delegation would like to share with the Committee its efforts and actions to promote and advance the Rights of Women, as well as the challenges faced on the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The Angolan delegation is composed of experts from the following Ministries: Family and Women Promotion to which I belong; the General Prosecutor; Home Affairs; External Relations, Justice and Human Rights, Economy, Education Public Administration Labor and Social Security, and Social Welfare. The names and the functions are contained in the Note Verbal submitted to the Committee.

Madam President;

The 6th report covers the period from 2006 to 2010, and reports actions on the implementation of the Convention in Angola aimed at achieving equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Such actions, also reflect the implementation of the Committee's recommendations made during the presentation of the 4th and 5th consolidated periodic report.

Aware that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, the government's actions are based on fulfillment of commitments under the Convention, as well as treaties on Human Rights where the Republic of Angola is a state party.

By ratifying CEDAW, the Republic of Angola has committed to take specific measures to strengthen the protection of women's rights and combating all forms of discrimination.

Combating violence in particular violence against women is one of the main concerns of the Angolan government. That's why in this period of political stability and peace, the promotion of gender is embedded in the strategic policy for economic development.

The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola in 2010, establishes in its Article 23, the principle of equality of all citizens.

In this context, there were enacted laws that safeguard the protection of women in Angolan society such as Law No. 02/05 on the Participation of Women in Political life, the Law n. ° 25/11 against Domestic Violence and the Law n ° 25 / 12 of the Protection and Development of Children.

The Ratification of international instruments on human rights, including: the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and Women in Africa, the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocols, demonstrates the engagement of the Angolan government regarding the promotion, protection and gender equality.

In this regard, it was created the Intersectoral Commission for the Preparation of Reports on Human Rights, which has among other objectives strengthening the partnership with civil society organizations and the UN system including the human rights treaty bodies .

The Ministry of Family and Women Promotion is the government Department in charge of implementing the strategy for the promotion of women, whose functions have been strengthened through the inclusion of two new directorate namely the National Gender policy Directorate and the National Directorate for Women's Rights which coordinates the family counseling centers throughout the country and acts as a liaison with NGOs centers and the home affairs unit specialized in combating violence against women.

Furthermore the ministry has created and integrated formation system on gender issues and coordenates the so called “UNITE” campaign to put an end on violence agaisnt women and girls in partnership with UNFPA

Madam President;

The results of this work have been complemented with policies aimed at implementing the recommendations of the Committee, through the implementation of programs, projects and services for the promotion of the empowerment of women, particularly women in rural areas, heads of households and women with disabilities, allowing their effective access to health, education, land, clean water, food, housing, subsidized credit and income-generating projects in accordance with Article 3 of CEDAW.

Despite the principle of equality enshrined in the constitution it is recognizes the existence in Angola of some stereotypes and harmful practices particularly in rural areas that result in discrimination against women and girls, derived from cultural practices. However the Constitution in its article 7 prohibits all practices, which violate the dignity of the human person.

In this regard , the Ministry of Family and Women Promotion in partnership with other stakholders have carried out information campaigns, awareness through seminars nationwide to eliminate such practices in accordance with Article 5 of the CEDAW.

Violence against women and girls is an undeniable reality in all societies. For this reason, the Angolan Government has adopted appropriate measures to prevent and combat such practices in accordance with Article 6 of CEDAW.

Regarding information circulating according to which there had been acts of sexual violence against migrants in Angola during the repatriation process, I would like to emphasize that the process respects the principles of human rights and international law and such practices that violates the fundamental human rights of migrants to do not reflect the politics of the Angolan Government.

In order to increase transparency the government has strengthened its cooperation with the specialized agencies and programs of the United Nations, including the International Organization for Migration, UN High Commissioner for Refugees to monitor the the repatriation process of migrants in Angola.

Madam President,

Women's Participation in the political life of the country falls under leadership and decision-making positions at all levels.

Despite the efforts developed by the government to implement the Articles 7 and 8 of CEDAW, the results have not yet achieved its goals.

Accordingly, the representation of women in parliament is 38.6%, at government level 20.9% and 23% in the judiciary system.

Madam Chair,

The increase of schools allows the Angolan government to implement more effectively the strategy for the promotion of equal opportunities in the education system that relies on increasing the retention and progression rate of girls and the elimination of stereotypes that encourages discrimination in the school programs and textbooks, by integrating gender issues in the national education system.

However, despite the efforts of the Government there is still some disparity in access to school .In average there are 77 girls for every 100 boys.

Madam President,

According to the Angolan legislation, every citizen has the right to equal opportunities in employment and a choice of profession or type of work, without any discrimination between men and women. For same work and equal salary.

The health of mother and child constitutes the most important public health care challenge in Angola and is one of the main priorities in the 2012-2017 Government program.

The factors that influence the maternal and infant mortality are complex and beyond the health care sector. Maternal and infant mortality rate are important indicators of quality of life and social reality of the population.

In addition to the revitalization of the health system, at the municipalities, the government provides specialized health care services for mother and children aiming to increase the universal access and equity.

Taking into consideration that this challenge requires the involvement of various stakeholders, the government has in 2010 established the Committee for prevention of maternal deaths coordinated by the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women in order to monitor the national campaign for accelerating reduction of maternal and neonatal and infant mortality as well as to raise awareness of the society around these issues.

Madam President,

The progress made in the construction and rehabilitation of social infrastructure, particularly the health sector, allowed the expansion of the municipal health network and the creation of new specialized and integrated services

There has also been improvements in the coverage of pre-natal consultations, disease prevention with increased immunization coverage, reduction or stabilization of incidence, prevalence and mortality from endemic diseases, particularly the prevention and control of HIV / AIDS, which contributed to raise life expectancy.

Madam President,

Despite the government efforts there are still several challenges mainly the lack of technical expertise, and insufficient financial resources as well as the weakness in the health information system which impacts the decision making process.

The process of gender equality and equity in Angola is not a mere political slogan, but a reality. For the public, private and civil society, NGOs, associations of women's rights, and the religious institutions and other stakeholders, are involved in the decision making process to implement all the human rights conventions that Angola is a State Party including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Despite the efforts of the Government there are still several challenges ahead and goals to achieve for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In this context, Angola has accepted the amendment made by paragraph 1 of article 20 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the periodicity of meetings of the Committee, whose instruments of acceptance will be deposited soon.

I would like to conclude by reiterating our gratitude for the effective work that the Committee has been developing for the promotion of the Rights of Woman and girl, without which no society can progress as a democratic state and rule of law.

To reaffirm our commitment to human rights, particularly women and girls, I express full availability of my delegation to an interactive, frank and constructive dialogue, in order to clarify the issues that the Committee deems appropriate. I to account on the technical advise and support from the Committee.

I thank you.