

AS WRITTEN



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

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE TWENTY-FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 1 JULY 1999

125 East 73rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

MR. PRESIDENT,

MAY I BEGIN BY CONGRATULATING YOU, ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, FOR PRESIDING OVER THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEDICATED TO THE ISSUES OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK DONE BY DR. NAFIS SADIK AT THE HELM OF THE UNFPA. MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE HER INITIATIVES AIMED AT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION, PARTICULARLY, IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

THE AVAILABLE DATA ON THE ANGOLAN POPULATION IS VERY SCARCE. SINCE ALMOST 29 YEARS-NOW, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REALIZE A GENERAL CENSUS OF THE POPULATION ACROSS ALL THE TERRITORY. PRESENT FIGURES IN THIS DOMAIN ARE BOTH LIMITED AND NOT VERY RELIABLE. THIS HAS BEEN FOR YEARS A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR MY GOVERNMENT, FOR IT HAMPERS OUR ABILITY TO

PLAN AND IMPLEMENT SOCIO AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

THE ONGOING WAR, WHICH RAVAGED THE COUNTRY FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, IS THE MAIN REASON BEHIND THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY IN ANGOLA. THE GOVERNMENT IS FORCED TO DIVERT LARGE AMOUNTS OF FINANCIAL AS WELL AS HUMAN RESOURCES NEEDED TO FUND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT PROGRAMS, TO PROTECT THE CIVILIAN POPULATIONS AGAINST TERRORIST ACTIONS.

THE INSTABILITY IS ALSO PREVENTING US FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE ENORMOUS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS PEOPLE, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO TODAY'S UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH PLUNGED ABOUT 65% OF THE ANGOLAN POPULATION BELOW THE POVERTY LINE.

JUST TO GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF THE TREMENDOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRISIS UPON THE POPULATION, ALLOW ME TO POINT OUT SOME FIGURES:

. THE HEALTH INDICATORS HAVE FALLEN DRAMATICALLY OVER THE LAST YEARS. THE MATERNITY MORTALITY RATES REACH BETWEEN

1,200 AND 1,500 FOR 100,000 BIRTHS, ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.

- . THE CHILD MORTALITY RATE IS 166% AND UNDER 5 YEARS IS 274%
- . THE LIFE EXPECTANCY IS AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD:
42.4 YEARS

AS FAR AS EDUCATION IS CONCERNED, ABOUT 2.3 MILLION CHILDREN ARE OUT OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM BECAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF MOST OF THE SCHOOL'S INFRASTRUCTURE, THE ABANDONMENT OF THEIR AREAS OF ORIGIN AND BECAUSE OF POVERTY. OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS, THE ANGOLAN POPULATION HAS DOUBLED FROM 5.6 MILLION IN THE 70s TO ROUGHLY 13 MILLION IN 1995. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE WAR, THIS INCREASE BROUGHT ABOUT IMBALANCES IN THE CONCENTRATION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. WHILE VAST PORTIONS OF TERRITORY ARE GETTING EMPTY, OTHERS LIKE THE CAPITAL, LUANDA, WHICH ALONE GIVES SHELTER TO 2-3 MILLION INHABITANTS, CANNOT SUSTAIN THE WEIGHT OF THE CONSTANT WAVES OF DISPLACED PERSONS. WOMEN AND CHILDREN MAKE UP MOST OF THE 1.8 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN ANGOLA.

ALSO, GIVEN THE WAR, MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE HAD BECOME INCAPACITATED AND ARE DESPERATELY IN NEED OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THEIR SOCIAL REINTEGRATION.

IN ORDER TO ATTENUATE THE EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOURTH PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNFPA, FOR THE PERIOD 1997-2000, MY GOVERNMENT SET AS A PRIORITY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED AT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE WITH REGARD TO THE ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE INTEGRATION OF STRATEGIES ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

SO FAR, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN:

- . STRENGTHENING OF THE MATERNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING SETTING UP OF FAMILY PLANNING AGENCIES
- . PASSING OF LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY
- . INCLUSION OF SOCIO AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, IN PARTICULAR, THE "STABILIZATION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY MID-TERM 1998-2000 PROGRAM", AND CREATION OF A SPECIAL AGENCY TO DEAL WITH POPULATION MATTERS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING
- . INTEGRATION OF THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.
- . INTRODUCTION OF POPULATION COURSES AT THE AGOSTINHO NETO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- PREPARATION OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION TO BE HELD IN THE YEAR 2000
- LAST BUT NOT LEAST, IMPLEMENTATION AND DECENTRALIZATION OF TWO LOCAL POPULATION PROGRAMS IN TWO OF THE MOST POPULATED PROVINCES, NAMELY, BENGUELA AND HUILA

MY GOVERNMENT IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE UNFPA FOR THESE ACTIVITIES AND STANDS READY TO REINFORCE THIS COOPERATION.

MR. PRESIDENT,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE CAIRO PROGRAM OF ACTION CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED IN A CONCERTED MANNER AND THROUGH THE MOBILIZATION OF NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND ALSO THROUGH NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING.

. THE ROLE OF AND SUPPORT BY THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL BE CRUCIAL FOR THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTION TO BE ACHIEVED, NAMELY:

- . CREATION OF CONDITIONS FOR A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE
NGOs AND THE GOVERNMENT
- . REINFORCEMENT OF PROGRAMS AIMED AT FACILITATING THE
WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES AS A WAY TO
PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND TO ADVANCE THE STATUS OF
WOMEN
- . IMPROVEMENT OF CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO SCHOOL, WITH A VIEW
TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LET ME APPEAL TO
THE DONOR COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FINANCIALLY THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE UNFPA SO THAT THE CAIRO PROGRAM OF ACTION
CAN BE A REALITY ESPECIALLY IN OUR DEVELOPING NATIONS.

THANK YOU.