



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

STATEMENT BY

**HER EXCELLENCY
MRS. ANA PAULA S. SACRAMENTO NETO
VICE-MINISTER FOR FAMILY**

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fifty-Fourth Session**

**15-Year Review of the Implementation of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special
Session of the General Assembly (2000)**

New York, 3 March 2010

(Please check against delivery)

820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me on behalf of the Government of Angola and my Delegation, to congratulate you upon your election as Chairperson of this Commission. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. I would like to assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation.

Angola fully associates itself with the statements made by the honorable Minister of Equatorial Guinea on behalf of the African Group, and by Yemen on behalf of the Member Countries of the G77 and China.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I am convinced that the sharing of information on good practice, progress and constraints, will bring benefits to the Nations gathered here.

In that context, the assessment of progress on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for action, the resolution of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women, Peace and Development towards the Twenty-First Century" and the Millennium Development Goals, is considered positive, although we recognize that there are still many barriers and constraints regarding the situation of women.

Mr. Chairperson,

In Angola, the process of empowerment, integration of gender perspective in policies and programs for the eradication of poverty, education and training of women, women and health, women in decision-making process and gender violence, has been successfully implemented by my Government.

The implementation of micro-credit and other financial mechanisms since 1999 as a way of encouraging the development of small and medium-sized enterprises is enabling the expansion of opportunities and thus contributing to the economic and social empowerment, with particular emphasis to women living in rural and suburban areas.

Regarding education, it should be noted that with the boost of classroom network, the capacity for the admission of new students in general education increased from 37,000 in 2006 to 71,000 in 2009, of which 44% are women.

Pivoting national health's service has been a priority in our country. Steady steps for an efficient health care and health services have been put

in place. In the last years, Angolan women have seen access to those services increased. In fact in the last 4 years, several health facilities have been constructed, going from 1,602 health units in 2006 to 2,042 in 2009, of which 400 are specialized clinics to provide reproductive health services.

There are also ongoing programs to cut vertical transmission in 29 hospitals and health centers. The network of counseling and testing was expanded, going from 11 in 2004 to 223 in 2009, of which 114 provide counseling to pregnant women.

It is noted that midwives have been Government partners, and have benefited from training and kits for making deliveries, in areas of lower health network coverage.

The girl has been given special attention in respect of the prevention of early pregnancies, the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and professional courses as well as sensitization campaigns to fighting school drop-outs.

Mr. Chairperson,

In order to prevent the sprouting of violence within families and in particular against women and girls, the Government has established nationwide Family Counseling Centers, as well as strengthened similar facilities established by civil society. All these centers are equipped with specialized staff (psychologists, sociologists, lawyers), and are active in legal and psychosocial counseling to victims of violence.

The participation and representation of women in decision-making processes has registered a considerable growth. As underlined in the Secretary General's report, Angola is amongst the 30 countries in the world with highest representation of women in parliament, with 39%. Moreover, tangible steps have been taken to consolidate these achievements and the positive developments registered after the proclamation of the new Constitution and subsequently the newly appointed Government, where women are represented at a ministerial level with 26%.

To conclude, Mr. Chairperson, the Angolan Government reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling the Banjul Declaration on the Strategies for Accelerating the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, mainstreaming them into our national policies and programmes in order to make them the central goal of our gender agenda.

I thank you.