



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

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. JOSE VAN-DUNEM
MINISTER OF HEALTH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN REALIZING
THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS
AND THE POLITICAL DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS**

**AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 9 JUNE 2011

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your Excellency Mr. President,
Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,



I am honoured to speak before this August Assembly during this High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS.

Thirty years after the start of the epidemic and 10 years after the landmark UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV / AIDS, we are gathered here to review the progress made and to reaffirm our commitment to sustain our response as nations, as individuals and as an international community.

Angola is a country in sub-Saharan Africa, the region the most affected by the epidemic, with a population of mostly young people and estimated to be 55% women. We are going through an intense phase of economic and social reconstruction, both largely affected by the long-lasting consequences that characterize countries that have experienced decades of war.

Mr. President,

Despite this dynamic, many challenges still prevail, as we are a country with a large territory and where, despite the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the government, health infrastructures are still lacking and access to basic social services has not yet reached desired levels.

The HIV epidemic in Angola, which varies in profile and behavior according to the region or province, has a prevalence ranging from 0.8 to 7% and a median of 2%, thus making Angola a low prevalence country.

Despite all the obstacles, the government has gradually been expanding free access to prevention, treatment, care and support. From 2003 to 2010, the number of counseling and testing centers increased from 8 to 558; we now have 133 Antiretroviral treatment centers for adults, 120 for children and 209 PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) centers. In 2010, over 450,000 people in our country were tested for HIV. More than 60,000 HIV positive adults and children were enrolled in care and support programs and about half of these people have been receiving free antiretroviral therapy. Each year, the number of pregnant women tested increases. In 2010, we tested more than 260,000 women in prenatal services.

We have achieved a rapid expansion of HIV-specific services, but we quickly realized that this is not the best way to create sustainable services. As a result, the Government is committed to integrating HIV services in existing health services while enhancing systemic response and making HIV care an integrating part of primary care.

Mr. President,

The data indicate that HIV prevalence is stable in Angola; we know, however, that there are determinants that can quickly change this reality. But if we continue to invest in knowledge, access to health services and education, gender equality, leadership by the youth, the involvement of people living with HIV, in updating and implementing strategies while prioritizing the most vulnerable groups on the basis of a shared responsibility, we are certain that we will maintain this trend and ensure that no man, woman or child is infected with HIV. We are committed to making this a reality.

We want to make sure that every girl and boy has correct knowledge about HIV and AIDS, as well as skills to protect themselves from infection. We also want to ensure that all pregnant women in Angola have access to PMTCT services that are integrated into prenatal care, ensuring that every man, woman and child in need of treatment can get it as close as possible to where they live. We want to provide support through home care or other means in collaboration with NGOs and faith-based organizations in order to monitor patients and all children and families made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS, and ensure that they have access to all social services, including psychological and nutritional support.

This is our vision.

Mr. President,

We are committed to the ongoing global efforts to reduce the weight of the epidemic. With our partners, to whom we would like to convey our appreciation for the support we have been given, and with the continuing engagement of the international community, we will strive to achieve universal access and zero new infections.

Our commitment is to the future!

Thank you.