



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

STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY

**MRS. ANA PAULA S. SACRAMENTO NETO
VICE-MINISTER OF FAMILY**

**AT THE FIFTY- FIFTH SESSION
ON THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

ON AGENDA ITEM 3

NEW YORK, 24 FEBRUARY 2011

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the Angolan Executive and Angolan the delegation, I take the floor during this session on the status of women. Allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate you and the other members of the Presidium for the successful conduit of the work of this session, and to assure you of our full cooperation.

I would like to take this moment to emphasize that Angola attaches great importance to the creation of the New Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and we therefore salute Mrs. Bachalet for leading this important challenge. We express our complete availability to work with her for the success of her endeavors at the New Entity.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Mozambique on behalf of the African Group and by Argentina on behalf of the member countries of the G-77 and China, as well as with the statement delivered by Namibia on behalf of SADC.

Mr. President,

The Angolan authorities have been paying especial attention to the equal access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, reflected by presence of women in the air force, aviation and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) jobs, which represent not only the capacity and engagement of women and girls in education but is also a motivation stimulus to Angolan women to boost their participation, knowledge and skills in science and innovation in order to get better jobs in the future.

Currently, Angola has a significant presence of women in many professions previously dominated by men, although a gap still exists between men's and women's access to ICTs. There is a markedly greater number of women and girls in all levels of education, particularly in higher education, which reflects a significant improvement in women's and girls' access to education.

Considering the critical importance of ICTs for the social and economic development of the country and their role in reducing poverty and combating hunger and social inequalities, the Angolan Executive has been promoting investments and national programs in this sector to encourage the widespread use of ICTs.

Mr. President,

Since women and girls are the group with the highest rate of literacy and school enrollment in the country, we are certain that in the short and medium term, we will

notice the benefits of programs involving the promotion of Cyber Cafes within communities, Computer training, improvement of computer equipment in schools at the national level, scientific and technological fairs, including the launching of the museum of science and technology, etc.

These initiatives have created the conditions for the presentation of Angola's bid to host the African Centre of Excellence for Training in Earth Sciences and Sustainability, as well as for the creation of the bases for the preliminary draft of the national science, technology and innovation policy and its national strategy. We are certain that women and girls will be given due attention.

We believe that the success of measures to empower women in science and technology will benefit greatly from the fact that a woman occupies the post of Minister of Science and Technology, as we feel that this has been a stimulus to the participation of women in ICT.

Mr. President,

Equal access to full employment and decent work is closely linked to women's and girls' ability to work in science. However, we recognize that work among vulnerable women has been decreasing gradually, and we therefore remain committed to creating decent jobs and reducing the stigma attached to certain jobs for women and men, reducing psychological violence, etc.

We would like to emphasize that success in the gradual reduction of precarious working conditions was due to an effort by the Angolan Executive, which took advantage of the economic growth that provided an environment conducive to the creation of over 30 training centers throughout the country in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, mining, with particular emphasis on technological training centers.

Special attention is also being paid to rural women. In 2008, a women's training program was established, which allowed the creation of spaces for training of women and girls, including women with disabilities, and women entrepreneurs, in order to provide them with knowledge, training and qualifications that would ease their integration into society.

Finally, Mr. President, the Angolan government is aware that to develop the areas of health, agriculture and other areas that are vital for the development and diversification of the economy, we must not separate science and innovation from the effective participation of women and girls in national programs.

Thank you.