



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

STATEMENT BY

**HER EXCELLENCY MRS. GENOVEVA DA CONCEIÇÃO LINO
MINISTER OF FAMILY AND THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN**

**AT THE 56TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 3

NEW YORK, MARCH 3, 2012

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Gender equality has been a priority issue for the government of Angola since the country's independence on November 11, 1975. Before that, in 1962, the Angolan Women's Organization undertook this issue and was instrumental in the approval, by the People's Assembly in 1991, of the creation of the Secretariat of State for the Promotion and Development of Women in order to ensure that Women and Gender issues were addressed by the Council of Ministers. In 1997, after the Beijing Conference, the Secretariat of State for the Promotion and Development of Women evolved to a Ministry, now known as the Ministry for Family and the Promotion of Women.

Excellency,

This decision propelled the Constitution to establish equality between men and women in the socio-economic, cultural and political spheres, and this principle is also embodied in the CEDAW's Charter on Human Rights as well as in all international and regional instruments relating to women's rights, gender equality and family.

In this connection, policies and programs have been adopted for the stability and welfare of women, and to ensure their full and equal participation in decision-making processes. With the attainment of peace in 2002, came an environment conducive to a greater visibility and performance of these policies, and women's participation rose from 14% in the parliament, 11% at government level and zero percent in Provincial Governments in 2007 to the current 38% in Parliament, 29% in the Government and two Provincial Governors. These percentages are expected to increase after the next elections to be held later this year.

To ensure the success of the achievements made so far, the Parliament approved the Domestic Violence Act in June of 2011. Also, the Council of Ministers is considering the approval of the National Gender Policy, the revision of the Family Code and the Action Plan on Rural Women, having already approved the Land Law, which guarantees rural women access and control of land either by acquisition or by inheritance. Several other improvements include the increase of educational infrastructures from primary schools to universities, where female participation is above 50% at some levels, the construction of a public university and five regional schools, as well as of several polytechnics and professional institutes, the improvement and increase in health infrastructures, with an emphasis to maternal and infant care to reduce mortality rates of women and children, the systematic and continuous compliance with vaccination programs, educational reform, the increased expansion of treated water and electricity supplies. All these achievements are in compliance with the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.