



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

STATEMENT BY

**HER EXCELLENCY
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THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN**

AT THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Excellencies,

Madam President,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola, and on behalf of the delegation that accompanies me, I would like to congratulate you and your team for your election to preside over the work of the 57th session on the Status of Women, under the theme **“Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence against Women and Children”**.

I take this opportunity to convey to the people and government of Venezuela our deepest condolences on the passing of President Hugo Chavez.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Violence against women and children is a complex, broad and current concern to all countries in the world where it is practiced.

Violence is not an exclusive concern of a group, a society or a country. It is one of the main obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as described in article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of fraternity.”

At the World Conference on Women, held in 1995, Violence against Women was one of the critical areas wherein to achieve equality between women and men. Through the Plan of Action adopted then, Governments committed to implementing a range of measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

As a result of this commitment, Angola has adhered to and ratified the main international and regional legal instruments on human rights and the rights of children.

In Angola, the issue of gender-based violence in general, and against women and children in particular, has been the subject of much reflection, as it is seriously worrying and is a factor that contributes to the disintegration of families.

In this context, the Angolan government has been making efforts to combat this phenomenon, combating the effects of violence against women, and also working on the prevention, care, protection and guarantee of their rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government's concern over gender-based violence has led to several studies that culminated in the drafting of the "**Law against Domestic Violence**", **No. 25/11**, which was unanimously approved by the Angolan Parliament on July 14, 2011 as well as the Plan for Combating Domestic Violence, being that the Family Action Plan and the National Gender Police are undergoing legal formalities. These actions aim to criminalize the aggressors on the one hand, thus making violence a matter of public concern, and on the other hand to create the institutional mechanisms, and financial and human resources to care for victims.

In this conformity, an **Integrated Gender Indicators system** was created, which is an innovative tool that promotes more effective monitoring and monitors the work of the Family Counseling Centres (FCCs). Allow me to inform you that there are now 27 active Counseling Centres nationally, and 7 Shelters.

Strengthening the role of families as the main social edifier is also a priority of the Government, and our society must also increasingly ensure stability within families, and firmly combat domestic violence and all forms of sexual assault, especially those affecting children and youths.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The implementation of the Law on Domestic Violence is a fact since the beginning of 2012. Accordingly, the Government of Angola has developed an intensive agent-training program that will work in the short and long terms, and has created a National department for the prevention and combat of violence against women and children, with the specific task to work on studies to diagnose root causes of violence against women and sexual violence against girls.

Given these challenges, the Angolan government has created an organ tasked with penalizing perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as dedicated premises within local courts.

I would like to stress that a bill is under consideration on Trafficking of Human Beings, as is the creation of organs to prevent and combat trafficking in women and children.

Thus, Angola takes a further step in combating violence, which is essential for building a truly democratic society, based on respect for the rights and the dignity of people, thus ensuring full equality between men and women.

Excellencies,

I would also like to inform this Noble Assembly that the Government of the Republic of Angola, on the path to fulfilling its commitments to combatting violence against women and children, has launched a major Campaign on the 10th and 11th of November 2012, known as “**Zero Tolerance**” and “**UNITE**”, according to the recommendation of the Kampala and the United Nations Declaration, respectively.

Finally, Madam President,

The HIV epidemic in Angola, which has different profiles and behaviors at the country level, has a prevalence of 2.1%, which is relatively low for southern Africa.

In 2012 the Government of Angola increased the number of counseling and testing facilities to 834; Antiretroviral treatment services for adults

to 184; for children to 136, and facilities for the Prevention of Vertical Transmission to 347.

In that same year, there were about half a million HIV tests conducted across the country, of which 22,313 were determined positive, and 250,000 pregnant women were tested during prenatal services.

It should be noted that the problem of HIV/AIDS in Angola is a priority on the agenda of the Government's Programme for 2012-2017, with clearly defined goals and objectives.

THANK YOU