



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY

MRS. ANA PAULA S. SACRAMENTO UNITEC
VICE-MINISTER OF HEALTH

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

ON AGENDA ITEM 3

NEW YORK, 21 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 of the Intergovernmental Allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate you and the entire membership of the UNCTAD for the successful conduct of the work of this session, and to assure you of our full cooperation

I would like to take this moment to emphasize the Angolan Executive's strong support for 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 new endeavors at the New Entity.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Mozambique on behalf of the Africa Group, and by Argentina on behalf of the member countries of the UNCTAD, 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, fostered 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 an invitation 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 previously male-dominated professions, particularly in 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 involvement of women and girls.

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 their strong commitment to work will

notice the benefits of programs involving the promotion of 'type-care' within communities, Computer training, improvement of computer equipment in schools' at the national level, scientific and technological fairs, including the launching of theme museums 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 national strategy. We are confident that the work of women and girls will be given due attention.

We believe that the success of measures to empower women in science and technology will be reflected greatly from the fact that we have announced the next Minister of Science and Technology, and we are confident 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 for women as vulnerable workers 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 unemployment 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 training centers throughout the country in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, tourism, with particular emphasis on technological training centers.

Special attention is also being paid to rural women. In 2006, 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 facilitate 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.