



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 9

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

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 1967, 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 all women's cultural issues were addressed by the Council of Ministers in 1997. After the Demba 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. 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 promotion 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 in the Provincial Governments. In 2007, in the 12th Parliament, 22% 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 Law which guarantees rural women access and control of land tenure by acquisition of property inheritance. Several other improvements include the increase of educational infrastructures from primary schools to universities, where female participation is above 50% at same 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 human infrastructures, with an emphasis to maternal and infant care to reduce mortality rates, the establishment of the national continuous surveillance with vaccination records, the educational reform, the increased expansion of treated water and electricity supply, and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.