



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**COUNTRY REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED DURING THE 54th PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF)**

LUANDA, JUNE 2024

I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to outline action taken by the Republic of Angola in implementing the resolutions approved at the 54th Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF.

During the 54th SADC PF Plenary Assembly held in November 2023 in Port Louis, Mauritius, resolutions were taken calling on Member states to adopt a number of measures of varying nature in order to strengthen regional integration objectives of the countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

In this regard, the Angolan state continues to implement programmes and projects aimed at progressively harmonising the political, economic and social order of the SADC countries, within the framework of regional cooperation and integration. Prioritising its efforts to fulfil the goals of regional integration, Angola has undertaken to speed up the implementation of SADC policies, protocols, agreements, resolutions and recommendations in a wide variety of areas.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 54th PLENARY ASSEMBLY:

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE MODEL LAW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- The National Assembly of the Republic of Angola has been making internal efforts to encourage the allocation of adequate funds for programmes related to the ratification and domestication of SADC Protocols;
- Ongoing work has been carried out to table bills focusing on children, such as the children's parliament, the national early childhood policy and its implementation plan, and on awareness-raising activities through the National Institute for Children (*Instituto Nacional da Criança*) and the National Council for Social Action and the localisation of the 11 commitments at municipality level. The implementation of these actions is also aimed at eradicating child marriage and protecting children who are victims of this social scourge.

2. **ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS BY THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS:**

- With regard to the mechanisms that promote women's participation in politics and decision-making, Angola still has the **National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity** (Presidential Decree n°. 222/13 of 24 December), which is linked to the Constitution of the Republic of Angola as the basic instrument for methodological guidance at all levels, to promote women's participation in all spheres of decision-making, in institutions, organisations and any social structure, and the Vice-President of the Republic is a woman.

Of the 3 State Ministers, one (1) is a woman, and of the 23 ministries in Cabinet, 8 are headed by women, totalling 39%;

- As of the 49 current Deputy Ministers (known as Secretaries of State), 11 are held by women; while of the 18 Provincial Governors, 4 are women, and out of the 39 Deputy Provincial Governors, 11 are women;
- The Political Parties Act promotes the participation of women in all decision-making positions in the political sphere, without specifying quotas;
- The Speaker of the National Assembly is a woman. Of the five political parties with seats in the National Assembly, one is led by a woman;
- Eighty-three point seven per cent (37.7%) of the 220 Members of the National Assembly are women;
- In the judiciary, the President of the Constitutional Court and one of the Deputy Attorneys-General or Prosecutors-Generals are women;
- At the High Bodies of the Council of the Judiciary, 542 of the seats are occupied by women at the following levels: Judicial and Public Prosecutors, Counsellors and Judges, representing 39% of Women Magistrates, as well as 34.4% of Public Prosecutors and 31% of Lawyers;
- In terms of management positions in public institutions, 31 per cent of the 53,707 public servants in leadership roles are women;
- Last year, 1,396 young girls were trained in small business management and 930 rural women in food processing and nutritious food. Agricultural tools and seeds have also been made available to rural women.

3. **ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:**

- With regard to the **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** Programme, the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Advancement signed a protocol with the National Bank of Angola in the field of Education and Financial Inclusion of Households. To date, more than 30,273 people have been trained in financial literacy as a way of promoting the self-sustainability of households, 3,186 personal and family finance multipliers have been trained, 5,820 bank accounts have been opened, 4,139 debit cards issued and 12 automatic pay point devices have been supplied;
- A **Multisectoral Gender Council**, comprising representatives of various government institutions and Civil Society Organisations, associations and individuals, known as focal points, has been established as a platform for addressing specific gender issues;
- Public consultation is underway to revise Act 25/11 of 14 July, the Law Against Domestic Violence, with the aim of aligning it with the new Angolan Penal Code and with regional and international instruments ratified by Angola;
- As for structures for referring victims of gender-based violence, there are family counselling centres operating in the Social Action, Family and Gender Equality Offices in all the country's provinces, in close collaboration with the Criminal Investigation Services (SIC) and the Ministry of Health. SOS helpline 15020 - Domestic Violence line 15015 SOS Criança are in operation, as well as the Platform for information and statistical data on domestic violence in Angola;
- The new Penal Code in force criminalises all types of gender-based violence, including rape of women and children;
- The new General Labour Law, Act 12/23 of 27 December, contains measures to protect and shield women in the workplace against sexual harassment;
- With regard to the adoption of regional and national policies on cross-border trade, Angola benefits from SADC support through the GIZ project for women-headed businesses with loans aimed at supporting groups of women working in formal

and informal trade, allowing them to exchange experiences at national and regional level;

- With regard to the harmonisation of laws that protect women and young people in the promotion of health rights, the Constitution of the Republic of Angola stipulates that marriage age is 18 years, although the Family Code, which is currently being revised, provides for the marriage of girls from the age of 16, on an exceptional basis, with their parents' or legal representatives' authorisation, in order to guarantee customary rights;
- The Angolan legal system outlaws free abortion, except in legally prescribed circumstances.
- As far as sexual and reproductive health and family planning services are concerned, access is open and free of charge, with only traditional barriers and taboos still prevailing in some communities, limiting women's and girls' right to take control of their own bodies;
- Regarding the adoption of social security initiatives for the informal sector, Angola has been implementing the **Programme to Strengthen the Social Protection System - Kwenda**, which, in 2023, registered 1,479,520 households eligible for Monetary Social Transfers, having made payouts to 951,203 households comprising 295,440 men and 655,763 women;
- With regard to the Kwenda productive inclusion component, the engagement of civil society in implementing and monitoring these projects stands out. In the same period, 101,544 people improved their living conditions as a result of income generation projects, of which 16,924 were direct beneficiaries and 84,620 indirect beneficiaries.
- As for promoting and supporting the network of women's and young people's cooperatives, in 2020, the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Advancement began the **Pilot Project for Establishing and Legalising Cooperatives "Cooperar é Vencer" (Cooperating is Winning)** in partnership with the **Institute for Support to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (INAPEM)**, with support from UNDP and FAO, to train 227 women, which enabled 40 different cooperatives to be set up and formalised.

- With regard to human trafficking, Angola's human trafficking statistics are not on the high side, but criminal, disciplinary and administrative measures have been put in place through the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to prevent human trafficking, including the traffic of women and children.
- In 2023, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights trained 2,000 National Police Officers and 300 Judicial Magistrates and Public Prosecutors through the National Institute of Judicial Studies.
- Existing measures to detect trafficking in human beings:
 - a) **Presidential Decree 235/14** established the Interministerial Commission against Trafficking in Human Beings;
 - b) Prevention, capacity building, training, awareness-raising and dissemination mechanisms have been created through the "*Coração Azul*" (Blue Heart) campaign;
 - c) Measures have been put in place to protect victims and follow-up cases through a database;
 - d) Mechanism for prosecuting the perpetrators, tracking cases through communication and information systems;
 - e) Follow-up by law enforcement agencies, a reference system for providing protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in Angola and standardised operational procedures for identifying and referring cases, via **Executive Decree No. 2 179/22 of 1 April**;
 - f) National and international partnership and information exchange mechanisms, through **Presidential Decree 31/20 of 14 February**, the National Action Plan to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings in Angola was approved.
 - g) Other applicable measures are provided for in **Act 38/20 of 11 November of the Criminal Code and Act 39/20, also of 11 November of the Penal Process Code**.
- With regard to affirmative action which facilitates an increase in resources for people with disabilities, the Angolan Executive has created legislative measures to protect people with disabilities across the board, without discriminating on the grounds of race, sex, colour or ethnicity, through **Act 21/12**,

the Persons with Disabilities Act, which allows access to education, health, employment and social protection Act 10/16, of 27 July, the Accessibility Act, a set of rights which allow them to be better integrated and respected in society, Presidential Decree No. 12/16, Regulation on providing for vacancies and hiring procedures for people with disabilities, with 4% for the public sector and 2% for the private sector. ° 12/16, Regulation on the reservation of vacancies and procedures for hiring people with disabilities, 4% for the public sector and 2% for the private sector, the Support and Protection Plan for People with Albinism (PAPPA) and the National Plan for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (PLANIAPED) 2023-2027.

- With regard to assistance with technical and walking aids for people with disabilities, in 2023 MASFAMU (the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Advancement) issued 897 compensation aids to all the country's provinces and referred 67 people with disabilities to various services (education, health, physical rehabilitation and employment).

4. **ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES:**

- There has been an increase in restraining ravines from 2 hectares in 2017 to 231.6 hectares;
- Similarly, the 2nd phase of the Charcoal Project has been completed in the Kwanza Sul and Huambo provinces, in order to minimise the damage caused by the exploitation of forest resources.

5. **ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATISATION, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS:**

- In terms of youth, young Angolans play an active and crucial role in democratic and electoral processes, with many involved essentially as polling agents, civic electoral education agents, national and provincial trainers.
- It is worth noting that Angolan parliamentarians have taken part in various peace and electoral observation missions,

namely in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and the Republic of Congo.

6. **ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT:**

- In terms of public debt management, there has been a reduction in the stock of public debt in foreign currency, from USD 80.84 thousand millions in 2017 to USD 70.43 thousand millions in 2021. The AOA stock increased by AOA 25,741.91 thousand million, from AOA 13,346.23 thousand million in 2017 to AOA 39,088.14 thousand million in 2021. This trend is due to the heavy exchange adjustment during the reporting period when the exchange rate went from AOA 163.66/USD in 2017 to AOA 554.98/USD in 2021.
- The domestic debt stock in foreign currency also decreased from USD 36.09 thousand million in 2017 to USD 19.79 thousand million in 2021. However, when denominated in the country currency, there is an increase of stock by AOA 5.02 thousand million, from AOA 5,958.98 thousand million to AOA 10,984.97 thousand million, and this trend is due to the heavy exchange adjustment during the reporting period.
- There was a reversal in the trend towards investment in short-term debt instruments. The treasury bills stock, which represented 19 per cent of the domestic debt stock in 2017, dropped to 4 per cent in 2021. This reduction in short-term instruments has enabled the treasury to, on the one hand, reduce liquidity constraints and, on the other, boost investment in longer-term instruments, catalysing Angola's capital market.
- The same trend occurred with treasury bonds indexed to the exchange rate. The stock of these instruments totalled USD 14.74 thousand million in 2017, and decreased to USD 3.51 thousand million in 2021. The reduction of these instruments was strategic, as they were creating distortions in the market, reducing the effectiveness of exchange rate policy, increasing costs for the national treasury and limiting the modernisation of the national financial system.
- As for external debt, there was an increase in its stock from USD 44.74 thousand million in 2017 to USD 50.64 thousand million in 2021. However, this increase improved the levels of

transparency and enabled a more pragmatic engagement with multilateral entities and with the market of capitals whose combined rose from USD 3,63 thousand million in 2017 to USD 15,43 thousand million in 2021, causing a change in external funding structure with a decrease in bilateral loans and from suppliers (these fundings tend to be short-term and more costly).

- On the other hand, the stock of public debt secured with oil fell by USD 3.98 thousand million from USD 22.28 thousand million in 2017 to USD 18.30 thousand million in 2021, especially the early repayment of the debt owed to Brazil.
- With regard to domestic arrears, a strategy was adopted to settle arrears incurred between 2013 and 2017, with a projected AOA 1,240 thousand million in arrears settled in 2019, of which AOA 482.30 thousand million corresponded to arrears registered in SIGFE and AOA 757.77 thousand million of non-SIGFE (State Financial Management System). Meanwhile, from 2018 to 2020 domestic arrears totalling AOA 1,687.3 thousand million, equivalent to 136.1% of the projection, were settled, with AOA 650 thousand million in 2018, AOA 558.3 thousand million in 2019 and AOA 479 thousand million in 2020.
- With regard to external arrears, at the start of the IMF programme, Angola had a total of USD 3.7 thousand million in external arrears: USD 2.1 thousand million to a foreign commercial creditor, which was restructured; USD 1.3 thousand million to a foreign public supplier - resources were secured to settle them; USD 0.3 thousand million to foreign private suppliers - most of which date back to the civil unrest, and the authorities contacted the respective diplomatic representations to help identify them in order to make settlement agreements.
- In order to eliminate such imbalances, the Executive began implementing the macroeconomic stabilisation programme, which had the technical and financial support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), using an extended financing programme, which ended in December 2021.
- From 2018 onwards, personnel costs were paid entirely from non-oil tax revenues, unlike in the period from 2014 to 2017, when non-oil tax revenues were insufficient to cover civil servants' pay.

- With these reforms, the increasing public debt trend was also reversed, with debt to GDP ratio falling from 121% in 2020 to 84 % in 2021. This trend continues downwards and the aim is to achieve a public debt to GDP ratio of less than 60 per cent in the coming years.
- When measured in US dollars, Angola's debt stock went down from USD 80.84 thousand million in 2017 to USD 70.43 thousand million in 2021. A significant decrease in just four years.
- Similarly, public debt stock secured with oil decreased by USD 3.98 thousand million, from USD 22.28 thousand million in 2017 to USD 18.3 thousand million in 2021, particularly due to the above referred early repayment of the Brazil debt.
- In order to strengthen public finance management instruments, the Public Finance Sustainability Act was enacted, and it ensured greater transparency in the implementation of fiscal policy, as well as greater predictability and fiscal discipline through the establishment of the medium-term fiscal framework, medium-term expenditure framework and fiscal rules, as well as ensuring greater articulation between planning instruments.
- As specialised debt management bodies, the Public Debt Management Unit (UGD) operates within the Ministry of Finance.

7. ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Regarding the resolutions implemented in the field of agriculture and natural resources, there was an increase in measures to contain ravines, from 2 hectares in 2017 to 231.6 hectares;
- The 2nd phase of the **Charcoal Project** was completed in the provinces of Kwanza Sul and Huambo, with the aim of minimising the damage caused by the exploitation of forest resources;
- Susceptibility and vulnerability maps for the national coastline were drawn up (www.projectoorla.com), as was the creation of the intersectoral committee for the implementation of the

National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PANCOD);

- More than eighty-four thousand (exactly 84,576) trees were planted in the Kwanza Sul, Kwanza Norte, Huambo, Luanda, Lunda Norte, Namibe and Cabinda provinces;
- More than 314,000 citizens have benefited from training in agricultural practices that are resilient to the effects of climate change;
- A total of 314 extension workers were trained in the municipalities of Cuanhama, Namacunde and Cuvelai (Cunene), with the implementation of 11 climate change workshops, in partnership with ADPP (*Associação Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo*);
- More than 292,000 people have been trained in alternative practices to improve community resilience to floods, droughts and other effects of climate change;
- Two (2) associations have been trained under the selective waste collection pilot programme: (i) *Associação Nação Verde*, with the "my refuse, my responsibility" project; and (ii) *Associação Eco Angola*, with the "Angola without plastic" project;
- Angola's Mining Code was approved, establishing a regulatory system that covers a set of legal rules and principles relating to access to and exercise of mining rights and their protection;
- As part of the regulatory reform, Presidential Decree 143/20 of 26 May was approved, introducing a new Governance Model for the geological-mining sector that aims to reduce direct state involvement in mining, promote transparency in the processes of accessing and granting mining rights and strengthen regulatory stability;
- The Environmental Conservation Areas Act also establishes fundamental principles for the preservation of the environment and efficient use of natural resources, and the State is responsible for adopting relevant measures to protect the environment and ecological balance, as well as penalising activities that jeopardise environmental preservation;
- In Angola, small-scale mining has been transformed into cooperatives and semi-industrial holdings, in order to improve and guarantee the stability of the jobs created, more revenue generation for the State and better environmental responsibility and optimisation in the use of mineral resources.

III. FINAL REMARKS:

Action taken on the decisions and recommendations of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly is crucial in ensuring the integration of the countries in the region and, thus, the National Assembly of the Republic of Angola has been making efforts together with other State agencies to guarantee optimal implementation of those recommendations at country level.