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List of abbreviations and acronyms

CCDH	Human Rights Coordination Council (Conselho de Coordenação dos Direitos Humanos)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEJPM	
CESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CICA	Council of Christian Churches in Angola (Conselho das Igrejas Cristãs em Angola)
CL	Constitutional Law
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DNIC	National Criminal Investigation Directorate (Direcção Nacional de Investigação Criminal)
ECP	Strategy to Combat Poverty (Estratégia de Combate a Pobreza)
EDEL	Luanda Electricity Distribution Company (Empresa Distribuidora de Electricidade de Luanda)
ENDIAMA	Angola Diamond Company (Empresa de Diamantes de Angola)
FONGA	Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations (Fórum das Organizações Não Governamentais)
GMP	Women Parliamentarians Group (Grupo das Mulheres Parlamentares)
GURN	Angola Government of Unity and Reconciliation (Governo de Unidade e Reconciliação de Angola)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
INAC	National Children's Institute (Instituto Nacional da Criança)
INE	National Statistics Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estatística)
ISCED	Higher Institute of Educational Sciences (Instituto Superior de Ciências de Educação)
MACVG	Ministry of Former Fighters and War Veterans
MAPESS	Ministry of Public Administration, Employment and Social Security
MAT	Ministry of Territorial Administration
MCS	Ministry of Social Communication
MED	Ministry of Education
MGM	Ministry of Geology and Mines
MHT	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
MCT	Ministry of Science and Technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Survey
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINARS	Ministry of Assistance and Social Reinsertion
MINCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MINCULT	Ministry of Culture
MINEA	Ministry of Energy and Water
MINFAMU	Ministry of the Family and Women's Empowerment
MINFIN	Ministry of Finance
MININT	Ministry of the Interior
MINIPLAN	Ministry of Planning

MINJUS	Ministry of Justice
MINUA	Ministry of City Planning and the Environment
MIREX	Ministry of Foreign Relations
NCC	
OAA	Order of Attorneys of Angola (Ordem dos Advogados de Angola)
OGE	General State Budget (Orçamento Geral do Estado)
PASUCA	
PGR	Chief Prosecutor (Procuradoria Geral da República)
PJ	Ombudsman (Provedor de Justiça)
PPD	Disabled Persons
PR	President of the Republic
SADC	
SME	Department of Migration and Alien Affairs (Serviço de Migração e Estrangeiros)
SONANGOL	Angola Fuel Company (Sociedade Angolana de Combustíveis)
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola)

Introduction

1. Common core and specific reports must be submitted by the State of Angola to honour the commitments it made by ratifying human rights instruments.¹ This has been done through the concerted action of the various organs of the State and Government together with the various institutions of civil society, supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as by the special commitment made by technical staff involved in the process at the national and provincial levels.
2. This report provides common core information about the implementation of the international legal instruments, from the time they are ratified by the State of Angola up to 2006, namely: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, according to the new report-preparation methodology designed by the United Nations in the context of its reform,² to which Angola has adhered.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE OF ANGOLA

A. Demographic, economic, social and cultural characteristics of Angola

3. Located on the west coast of southern Africa, between the Republic of the Congo to the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the northeast, Zambia to the east, Namibia to the south, and bathed to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, Angola is the fifth-largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, with a total area of 1,246,700 square kilometers. The estuary of the Congo River and a portion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo separate Cabinda province from the rest of the country. Administratively, the country is divided³ into 18 provinces, 163 municipalities and 547 communes.
4. The territory of Angola is a high plain with altitudes that vary between 1,000 and 1,500 metres, bordered by a narrow strip of lowlands in the coastal region. The Morro do Mõco is the highest point, located in Huambo province, at 2,620 metres. Its climate varies considerably, from the dry climate of the desert to the rainy tropical climate of the savanna, tempered by the effect of altitude.

¹ Angola has ratified the following international human rights instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

² HRI/MC/2004/3.

³ Source: Local Administration - MAT

1. Demographic structure

5. Since 1970, no census of the Angolan population has been taken. This explains the lack of reliable demographic data, which is a factor in difficulties related to the planning, management, support and evaluation of socioeconomic policies. Angola's population was estimated to be 16,526,000 inhabitants⁴ for 2007, with an extremely low population density estimated to be roughly 13.3 inhabitants per square km for the same year. The Multiple Indicators Survey (MICS2)⁵ revealed the following principal demographic characteristics:

(a) The population of Angola is very young: roughly 50 per cent of Angolans are under 15 years old, while 60 per cent are under 18 years old;

(b) Ninety-three per cent of the population is under 50 years old;

(c) The average fertility rate, seven children per woman, is very high;

(d) An analysis of the population structure by age and gender reveals a significant shortfall of men, and this is especially pronounced in the age group of men between 20 and 29 years old;

(e) The male/female split is 91 per cent: on average, there are 91 men for every 100 Angolan women;

(f) Sixty-six per cent of the population is urban and 34 per cent rural, which is almost the opposite of the situation in the mid-1990s;

(g) By age 18, one third of Angolan women have already given birth; by age 20, 68 per cent were already mothers;

(h) The average age at the time of the first marriage is 21.4 years for women⁶ and 24.7 years for men;

(i) Only 6 per cent of the population uses contraception.

6. Although the country's official language is Portuguese, the people of Angola come from several ethnic-linguistic groups, each of which has its cultural traditions.

⁴ General Census of the Population, 1940 I Volume, INE, *Boletim Demográfico* No. 9, revised in 2005.

⁵ Multiple Indicators Survey, National Statistics Institute in partnership with UNICEF (data collection did not take place during a six-month period from April to October 2001).

⁶ UNICEF best estimate indicates that approximately 50 per cent of women marry before they are 18.

Table 1**Ethnic groups represented in Angola**

Non-black and non-Bantu Peoples	Bosquimanes or Bochimanes; Vakwankala or Vasekele, in the description of the Bantus, Nkhw, as they describe them themselves. "Yellow Bosquimanos."
Hotentote-Bosquiamano or Kholsan Group	Cazamas or Vazamas (Karma or Vazama). "Bosquimanos Negros."
Non-Bantu people designated Pre-Bantus	Cuaisais (Kuisi or Ova-Kwando). They spoke a Khoisan language and now use the Cuvale dialect.
Vátuas or Vatwa "Corocas"	Cuepes (Kwepe or Ova-Kwepe). "Corocas," speak a language of the Khoisan group.
Bantu Black Peoples (9 ethnic-linguistic groups)	Quicongos or Congueses (Bakongo), Quimbundos (Tyumbundu), Lunda-Quiocos (Lunda-Tchokwé), Mbundus (Ovimbundu), Ganguelas (Ngangela), Nhaneca-Humbe (Nyaneka-Nkhumbi), Ambos (Ovambo), Hereros (Tjiherero or Tchielelo), Xindongas (Oshindonga).
Europeans (Portuguese)	Continental, Atlantic, Descendents

2. Economic structure of the country

7. According to aggregate estimates in the national accounts, the national economy is structured asset out in table 2 below.

Table 2**Aggregates from national accounting**
(thousands of current dollars)

Economic sectors	2004	2005	2006
Agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries	1 708 872.9	2 602 745.4	3 207 010.9
Oil and refined products	9 855 596.3	17 038 903.1	23 382 668.5
Diamonds and others	716 615.5	884 694.8	950 666.3
Processing industry	792 086.3	1 240 843.7	2 014 551.9
Electricity and water	7 793.8	30 264.5	38 456.3
Public works and construction	745 083.9	1 240 843.7	1 809 849.8
Business, banking, insurance and services	3 154 316.5	4 509 407.8	6 227 492.2
Others	1 534 652.3	2 723 803.3	3 307 686.1
GDP	18 515 017.5	30 264 481.5	40 938 381.9
GDP billions of kwanzas	1 544.9	2 445.3	3 289.2
Non-oil GDP	8 659 421.2	13 225 578.4	17 555 713.4
Per capita GDP (dollars)	1 264.6	1 984.8	2 565.6

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

8. The mining sectors continue to be of paramount importance to the national economy, which is the result of excellent performance in the international supply of and prices for oil and diamonds. This contributes to increasing the relative importance of these sectors of activity. The two sectors together accounted for 59.4 per cent of the total of domestic added value in 2006, while this figure was 59.2 per cent in 2005.

Table 3
Structure of the national economy
(percentages)

Economic sectors	2004	2005	2006
Agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries	9.1	8.6	7.8
Oil and refined products	52.6	56.3	57.1
Diamonds and others	5.0	2.9	2.3
Processing industry	4.2	4.1	4.9
Electricity and water	0.0	0.1	0.1
Public works and construction	4.0	4.1	4.4
Business, Banking, Insurance and Services	16.8	14.9	15.2
Others	8.2	9.0	8.1
GDP	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non-oil GDP	42.41	41.8	40.6

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

9. In real terms, the sectoral performances of the national economy in 2005 are expressed in table 4 below.

Table 4
Economic performance in 2006
(real growth rates, in per cent)

	GDP	Oil	Diamonds	Agriculture	Processing	Construction	Energy	Trade services
Projected	19.5	21.2	41.7	-12.3	30.7	66.2	28.3	15.8
Actual	18.8	13.1	30.9	9.8	44.7	30.0	13.2	38.1

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

10 Agricultural activity benefited from the Government making material resources available (seeds, fertilizer and labour instruments) to family farms and from the increase in arable area of about 2 per cent, mainly during the resettlement and reinstallation process of dislocated people, former soldiers and refugees, whose indicators reflect a 9.8 per cent increase versus a projected 12.3 per cent decrease. The results were different due to the drought in some provinces of the

central and southern areas of the country, and in particular in the provinces of Benguela, Kwanza Sul, Huila, Namibe and Cumene, where the effects impacted production levels of some grains and leguminous plants. The crops most affected by the drought were corn and beans, which account for a considerable level of activity, so that the sector's production fell by 12.3 per cent compared to the previous crop year.

Table 5**Agricultural production in tons**

Product/Crop Year	2003/2004	2004/2005	%	2005/2006	%
Corn	577 000	734 372	27.3	526 084	-28
Massango/Massambala	123 400	137 907	11.8	144 390	5
Rice	13 000	8 650	-33.5	3 831	-56
Beans	75 966	109 284	43.9	85 081	-22
Groundnuts	49 976	66 003	32.1	64 340	-3
Manioc	6 817 227	8 586 873	26.0	9 037 023	5
Potatoes	241 945	308 876	27.7	350 814	14
Sweet potatoes	629 573	663 787	5.4	684 756	3

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

11. Thus, in accordance with the national food survey, the shortfall is still significant, with the greatest impact on grains, in which the rice and wheat crops are most important. Roots and tubers continued the growth trend that began in the 2002/2001 growing season.

Table 6**Livestock production**

Product/Year	2004	2005	2006	2005/2004	2006/2005
Beef (ton)	7 200	8 730	12 204	21.3	39.8
Goat and sheep meat (ton)	940	5 427	9 153	477.3	68.7
Pork (ton)	500	13 601	22 882	2 620.2	68.2
Chicken (ton)	650	630	1 058	-3.1	67.9
Milk (1 000 liters)	640 5	804	1 356		68.7
Eggs (1 000)	87 500	3 620	6 102	-95.9	68.6
Skins and hides		536	915		70.7

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

12. In 2006, livestock production performance was very strong, resulting in considerable increases, particularly for the products that rose above the 60 per cent level. Beef had the poorest performance, at around 40 per cent. Consequently, the people's food diet has been improving considerably.

Table 7

Coffee production

Product	2004	2005	2006	2005/2004	2006/2005
Commercial coffee (ton)	3 000	3 000	2 500	0.0	-18.7

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

13. Coffee production was not strong, as shown by its results, which reflected about a 17 per cent drop in production, mainly due to the fact plantations were abandoned, were aging, and were deteriorating. However, the higher price of commercial coffee in the international market may be an additional incentive to make new investments in this subsector.

Table 8

Forest production

Products/Year	2004	2005	2006/2006/2005	
Lumber	37 420	45 000	59 872	33
Charcoal (ton)	60 578	50 000		
Firewood (cubic meters)	26 557	25 000		
Reforestation	650	650	759	17
Honey (ton)		3.5		

Source: 2006 Government Programme Survey.

3. Social context

14. According to the 2005 progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in 2000/2001 68 per cent of the population of Angola was living below the poverty line (this amounts to US\$ 1.70 per day); 26 per cent was living in extreme poverty (US\$ 0.75 per day); educational levels were low, mainly due to the poor supply of educational services (infrastructures and teachers); the poor quality of the services and limited access to financial resources for some of the people; the significant gender inequality (in 2001, women accounted for 70 per cent of the labour force in the informal sector); the literacy rate for individuals older than 15 was 82.2 per cent for men and just 53.8 per cent for women; life expectancy was 40 years for Angolans; the infant mortality rate showed that one of every four children dies before reaching age 5; the maternal mortality rate was very high (1,700 for every 100,000 births); the prevalence rate for HIV/AIDS among individuals from 15 to 49 years old was 3.9 per cent in 2003; the number of AIDS orphans was 110,000 children.

15. Confronted with this situation, the Government established goals to achieve the MDGs. These are:

(a) Between 1990 and 2015, to reduce by half the percentage of the population with income of less than one dollar per day by efficiently directing the resources necessary for lowering the great poverty in the country as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (Estratégia de Combate a Pobreza - ECP), estimated at roughly US\$ 3.15 billion for the 2003/2006 period.

Table 9

Poverty indicators
(percentage)

Indicators	2001	2003	2015
Population below the poverty line	68	NA	34
Poverty gap index	0.320		
Extremely poor population	26	NA	13

Source: INE, Report on Progress in the MDGs.

Note: NA = data not available.

(b) Between 1990 and 2015, to reduce by half the percentage of the population that suffers from hunger, creating food security and rural development incentives that seek to meet domestic food needs and revitalize the rural economy as one of the areas vital to sustainable development in Angola.

Table 10

Malnutrition indicators
(percentage)

Indicators	2001	2003	2015
Prevalence of children under five considered below the ideal weight for their age	45.2	NA	22.6
Proportion of the population that did not achieve the minimum level of dietary consumption in calories	NA	NA	NA

Source: INE, Report on Progress in the MDGs.

Note: NA = data not available.

(c) Ensure that all boys and girls complete their primary studies, taking into account the fact that the education sector is one of the priorities in the strategy to fight poverty. Its budget is the second highest in total value for poverty reduction (15 per cent). To that end, the General State Budget 2005 (OGE) allocated roughly 7.4 per cent of public spending to the education sector;

(d) To eliminate gender inequality in primary and secondary education by 2005 and at all levels by 2015, and to ensure interaction among the various governmental sectors involved in achieving the defined objective and clearly identifying programmes and projects, as well as the indicators associated with them;

(e) Between 1990 and 2015, to reduce by two thirds the mortality rate of children under age 5 by implementing the Strategic Plan for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal-Child Mortality for the 2004-2008 period;

(f) Between 1990 and 2015, to reduce the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters. The challenge is to train and retrain health care workers, prepare conditions for childbirth and the treatment of complications from it, and mobilize resources;

(g) To stop and begin to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, seeking to maintain the prevalence level at 2.8 per cent in pregnant women, and strive to lower it by allocating resources to meet the stated objectives;

(h) To incorporate the principles of sustainable development into national policies and programmes, reversing the trend of a loss of environmental resources, applying the directives of the Montreal Protocol on Population and Chemical Safety, which recommends the gradual elimination of substances that deplete the ozone layer by 2010;

(i) Develop a more open, regulated, predictable and non-discriminatory system of business and finance, including good governance, development and poverty reduction, promoting the involvement of the poor in the management of society and the State, job creation, decentralization of public management, reinforcing the State's administrative capacity, and giving incentives for civil society involvement in preparing and monitoring public budgets.

16. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the end of the armed conflict in April 2002 made it possible for nearly four million dislocated Angolans and for 400,000 refugees to return their communities of origin,⁷ and activities are in progress to completely implement the strategies for their resettlement, as well as the reintegration of soldiers into civil life.

4. Cultural context

17. The population of Angola is comprised of several ethnic-linguistic groups of Bantu origin,⁸ of "non-Bantu"⁹ and of European origin.

⁷ According to UNHCR data, 200,000 refugees have not yet returned.

⁸ The Bakongos, Ambundos, Ovimbundu, Lunda-Kioco, Ganguelas, Nhaneca-Humbe, Herero, Xindongas, and the Ovambos.

⁹ The Vátua and the Hottentot-Bosquimano (San).

18. The languages currently spoken in Angola are, by amount of time spoken, the non-Bantu languages (Bosquimana or Bochimane), the Bantu languages (Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo, Cokwe, Kwanyama, Ngangela, etc.), and Portuguese. The latter is the official language as well as a fundamental factor in national unity. Although only 26 per cent of the population speaks Portuguese, most people, in addition to speaking at least one national language, also speak Portuguese, so that Portuguese is the most widely spoken language.

19. In 2006, the Government held the Third Symposium on National Culture, which dealt with the Cultural Policy and the Cultural Development Programme in Angola. In the chapter on training and capacity-building, there were noteworthy initiatives, such as the regional seminar for technical staff of culture groups from the provinces of Moxico, Lunda Norte and Sul on cultural activism, theatre, dance and music, the capacity-building seminar for municipal managers of cultural assets in Cabinda province, the management seminar for civil servants from the provinces of Malange, Kuanza Norte and Bengo on file organization, as well as the seminar for promoters of reading from the public libraries and social projects in Luanda.

20. Technical training in the arts was a priority in 2006, as new professors were admitted through the public competitive examination, which made it possible to continue training in theatre, music, dance and the plastic arts. However, there was a significant drop in the number of students due to infrastructure deterioration.

Table 11

Registered students

No.	Institution	Years				
		2004	2005	2006	05/04	06/05
1	National Theater School	76	103	73	+33.5%	-29%
2	National Music School	93	124	85	+33.3%	-31%
3	National Dance School	36	50	26	+38.8%	-48%
4	National Plastic Arts School	217	217	206	-	-5%

Source: Ministry of Culture (2006 Government Programme Survey).

B. Constitutional, political and legal structure

1. Historical context of Angola

21. The Constitutional Law enacted after Angola became independent was revised twice for the purpose of establishing the constitutional premises necessary to install multiparty democracy, increase the recognition and guarantees of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens, as well as the constitutional recognition of the basic principles of the market economy. The first revision was through Law No. 12/91 and the second was through Law No. 23/92. The draft of the new Constitution sets out innovative means for protecting human rights.

22. The territory of Angola was part of the former Kingdoms of the Congo, Ndongo, Cassanje, Matamba, and subsequently, the Kingdoms of Bailundo, Bié and Planalto Central, which were occupied by the Portuguese at times in the 15th century. Despite the resistance of the kingdoms, which staged isolated, weak and small rebellions, the occupation lasted roughly 500 years.

23. Influenced by the independence of some African countries of the respective colonial powers in the 1950s, several national liberation movements emerged, such as the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola, or MPLA),¹⁰ the **National Front for the Liberation of Angola** (Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola, or FNLA),¹¹ and subsequently, the **National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola, or UNITA)**, which in the 1970s promoted the anti-colonial struggle which culminated in the proclamation of national independence on 11 November 1975. After the end of the First World War, the League of Nations began to exert pressure so that the people of Africa would enjoy the right to self-determination, which itself did not achieve the immediately desired goals, because the League was an extremely bureaucratic apparatus and had no effective means to counter the conflicts that arose as a result or to require the colonizing countries to fulfil their obligations. This was also a noteworthy contributing factor in decolonization.

24. Despite its independence, the country continued to be mired in armed conflict, with a minor hiatus in 1991 and a period of peace that heralded the country's opening to a multiparty system and a market economy. In 1992 the first elections were held. UNITA did not accept the results and the country experienced renewed and more violent confrontations. Even with the formation of the National Unity and Reconciliation Government (GURN), after the Lusaka Protocol, it was not until 4 April 2002, with the signing of the Luena Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and UNITA, that peace was found.

25. However, the pacification of the national territory culminated in the signing of the peace agreement by Cabinda Province on 1 August 2006, in the city of Namibe, by the Government and the Cabindês Forum for Dialogue.

26. The current Constitutional Law (CL) stemmed from Law No. 23/92 of 16 September 1992, the Constitutional Revision Act, after changes were made that were introduced through Law No. 12/91 of 6 May 1991, which created the constitutional premises necessary for establishing democracy, increasing the recognition and guarantees of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens, as well as their achievement.

¹⁰ Including MIA (Movimento de Independência de Angola), PLUAA (Partido da Luta Unida dos Africanos de Angola), MAC (Movimento Anti-Colonial), the merger of which created the MPLA.

¹¹ Including UPNA (União dos Povos do Norte de Angola), UPA (União dos Povos de Angola), PDA (Partido Democrático Angolano), the merger of which created the FNLA.

27. The main generic changes that the Constitutional Revision Act introduced consisted of: the designation of the State as the Republic of Angola, the legislative organ as the National Assembly, and removing the term “People’s” from the name of the courts; the introduction of new articles that recognized and guaranteed fundamental human rights and freedoms, based on the principal international human rights treaties that Angola had already signed; the definition of Angola as a democratic State, with the rule of law, using an organizational model based on the separation of powers and the independence of the organs of sovereignty and a semi-presidential system gives the President of the Republic an active and operational role; in the administration of justice, the organization of the judiciary and the identification of the essential profiles of the constitutional status of the judicial magistrates and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

2. General framework – constitutional, political and legal

28. The Republic of Angola is a sovereign and independent nation, with the fundamental objective of building a free, democratic, peaceful and just society with social progress. It observes the rule of law, which is based on national unity, human dignity, pluralism of expression, political organization, and the respect for and guarantee of the fundamental rights and freedoms of man, both as individuals and as members of organized social groups.

29. Sovereignty rests with the people, who exercise it through the organs of the State of Angola, namely the President of the Republic, the National Assembly, the Government and the Courts, which guarantee that the objectives enshrined in the Law and indicated in the chapters on the principles and rights and fundamental duties of the organs of the State, national defence and constitutional guarantee. The people exercise political power through periodic universal suffrage by choosing their representatives and by democratic citizen participation in the nation’s activities.

II. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Acceptance of international human rights norms

30. When an international legal instrument is signed, approved or ratified, the State demonstrates its acceptance of those instruments in terms of strengthening the legal order of the country. As a prerequisite to guaranteeing the protection and promotion of the human rights of its citizens, the Republic of Angola adopted the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (signed in 1982); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (approved 30 August 2007); the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified on 10 November 1990; the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, approved respectively by resolutions No. 21 and 22/02; the African Charter on the Rights and Well-Being of the Child, ratified in April 1992; the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, or Beijing Rules, in November 1990; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified in 1984, and adopted by the General Assembly in 1979.

31. Angola has also ratified the Geneva Convention on humanitarian rights in armed conflicts; the Convention on the Status of Refugees; the Convention on the Political Rights of Women; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Protocol Relative to the Status of Refugees; the Convention Relative to the Specific Aspects of the Problems of Refugees in Africa, ILO Convention No. 6 (1919) on Night Work of Young Persons (Industry), and the African Charter of Human and People's Rights.

B. General framework for the protection of human rights

32. The fundamental rights of the citizens guaranteed by article 18 of the Constitutional Law, which states that "All citizens shall be equal under the law. They enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties, without distinction as to colour, race, ethnicity, gender, place of birth, religion, ideology, degree of education, or economic or social condition, under pain of severe punishment by the law for acts that seek to interfere with social harmony or create discrimination and privileges based on these factors". Article 21, No. 2, states that Constitutional and legal norms related to fundamental rights shall be interpreted and incorporated in keeping with the international instruments to which Angola has adhered. No. 3 of the same article requires Angolan courts to apply the international instruments, even if the parties have not invoked them. In this case, reference is made to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which is the subject of this evaluation process, and other instruments that the State of Angola has adhered to are applicable legal instruments in Angola.

33. The normative framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of the citizens is found in a set of statutes and regulations on the public and private life of the citizens, based on the provisions of the Fundamental Rights and Duties established by the Constitutional Law (CL), and in particular: Law No. 2/00 of February 11, the General Labour Act; Law No. 21-B/92 of August 28, the Framework Law of the National Health System; Law No. 18/90 of October 28 – the Social Security System Act; Law No. 7/04 of October 15 – The Social Protection Framework Act; Law No. 2/07 of August 31 – Legal Regime of Foreigners Act; Law No. 13/01, December 31 – Basic Education System Act; Decree-Law 10 – on Legal Assistance; Law No. 18-A/92 of July 17 – on Pretrial Detention; Law No. 14/91 of May 11 – on Associations; Law No. 16/91 of May 11 – on Assemblies and Demonstrations; Law No. 22/92 of September 4 – on Investigations, Searches and Arrests; Decree No. 43/03 of July 4 – on HIV/AIDS; Law No. 8/04 of November 1 – Employment and Vocational Training; Law No. 4/05 of July 4 – on the Observation of Elections; and Law No. 8/90 of May 26 – on the Status of Refugees.

34. In the context of their powers and authority, the ministries may produce compulsory norms of conduct to strengthen the statutory provisions on human rights, approve internal rules and issue ministerial communications as well as joint communications.

35. The General Organization for the Promotion of Human Rights uses the organs of the State for institutional support, organized according to the provisions of the CL, with a functional structure that pursues objectives relative to the established statutory principles.

36. The President of the Republic (PR) is the Head of State, the symbol of national unity, and the representative of the nation domestically and internationally. He ensures compliance with the Constitutional Law. He is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Angola. He is elected by a majority of votes legally cast by means of universal, equal, direct, secret and periodic suffrage and his term is for five years. In carrying out his duties he is supported by the Council of the Republic, a political advisory body that he chairs, which consists of the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the President of the Constitutional Court, the Chief Prosecutor, the Presidents of the Political Parties represented in the Assembly, and 10 citizens appointed by the President of the Republic who are responsible for making decisions regarding acts of sovereignty.

37. The National Assembly, the representative body of all Angolans, expresses the sovereign will of the people. There are 223 deputies in the Assembly. They are elected by universal, equal, direct, secret and periodic suffrage for a four-year term.

38. The Government, the supreme organ of the Public Administration, carries out the general policy of the country and is politically accountable to the President and the National Assembly under the law. Its collegial body is the Council of Ministers, chaired by the President of the Republic and consists of the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Secretaries of State.

39. The courts are sovereign bodies with jurisdiction over the administration of justice in the name of the People. It is the responsibility of the Supreme Court and the other courts created by law to exercise the jurisdiction function independently, and they are subject to only the law. They are entitled to work together with the other authorities. They guarantee and ensure observance of the Constitutional Law, the laws and other normative provisions in effect, the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens and of the institutions, and they make decisions as to the legality of administrative measures.

40. To protect and promote human rights in practice, the State apparatus is subject to specific and specialized obligations based on the authority of each one of the organs described in the paragraphs below.

1. National Assembly

41. The National Assembly has in its organic law nine Standing Working Committees, namely: the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Regulatory Matters; the Committee on Defense, National Security and Domestic Order; the Committee on Foreign Relations, International Cooperation and Angolan Communities Abroad; the Committee on the Administration of the State and Local Authorities; the Committee on the Economy and Finance; the Committee on Education, Science and Technology, Culture, Youth, Sports, Religious Matters and Social Communication; the Committee on Health, the Environment, Social Action, Employment, Veterans, the Family, Childhood and the Women's empowerment; the Committee on Tenure, Ethics and Parliamentary Order; and the Committee on Human Rights, Petitions, Complaints and Suggestions from Citizens.

42. The ninth committee, the Committee on Human Rights, Petitions, Complaints and Suggestions from Citizens, is different due to the special role it plays in dealing with complaints, petitions and suggestions submitted by the citizens before being evaluated by the plenary session

of the National Assembly, in the control and monitoring of government actions, in preparing opinions on draft laws and resolutions on human rights, in receiving complaints and forwarding them to the appropriate bodies, as well as in analysis and informing the citizens of the results.

2. Government

43. The Government, which consists of the Ministries and Secretaries of State, furthers and guarantees human rights through:

(a) The **Ministry of Justice** (MINJUS), which has an Office of Human Rights, created by Decree-Law No. 2/05, of July 24. This office coordinates and links actions with the Provincial Human Rights Committees it created, with the purpose of promoting and protecting the rights of national citizens and aliens at that level. This important body is still struggling because it lacks its own facilities¹² and staff, and these factors are constraints in terms of its operation and the committees that depend on it;

(b) The **Ministry of the Interior** (MININT) oversees the National Police, an organ of the Government. It is in charge of overseeing the defence of democratic legality, maintaining public order and calm, ensuring compliance through the regular exercise of the citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens, preventing delinquency and crime, and cooperating in defending the nation. Four years ago its General Commander created the "Development and Modernization Programme" which will last 10 years; it seeks to provide effective and high-quality police service to all citizens, the prison departments or penitentiaries, with specific programmes to redeem convicts so they can be reintegrated into society after they have served their terms for illegal acts; the Migration and Alien Department ensures the legality of migration (immigration and migration) of national citizens and aliens in accordance with the law;

(c) The **Ministry of the Family and the Women's Empowerment** (MINFAMU), through family counselling centres, promotes unity, harmony, reconciliation and the spirit of responsibility and mutual respect in the family. It deals with gender issues in the context of human rights. Cases that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Family Counselling Centres in the 18 provinces of the country are referred to the bodies that do have jurisdiction (National Criminal Investigation Department, Courts such as the Family Division, the Civil and Administrative Division, and the Social Court for Minors);

(d) The **Ministry of Public Administration, Employment and Social Security** (MAPESS). Through its bodies, MAPESS promotes the resolution of labour conflicts according to the law and international labour instruments; it carries out the employment policy as required by applying Law No. 2/00, the General Labour Act, of the civil service and social security laws on reforms, retirees, the disabled, orphans and widows;

¹² Except in Lunda Norte province.

(e) The **National Children's Institute** (INAC), by definition, carries out substantial advocacy work, and seeks to defend and promote children's rights, creating foundations so that there is a model of dignity for humans in the future. In addition to its advocacy activities, there is the creation and expansion of Networks for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights at the provincial, municipal, communal, neighbourhood or village level. As part of its authority, it observes cases of children's rights violations and refers them to the appropriate authorities (National Criminal Investigation Department, Courts such as the Family Court, Civil and Administrative Court, and the Social Court for Minors).

3. The courts

44. The court structure consists of Regular Courts (Supreme Court, Provincial Courts, Municipal Courts, Maritime Court, the Social Court for Minors) and Special Courts (Military Courts and the Court of Auditors). The scope of jurisdiction of the common courts may be generic and/or special jurisdiction.

45. In accordance with the Constitutional Law, the following courts may be created that are outside the scope of the regular courts: military courts, administrative courts, courts of auditors, tax courts, customs courts, maritime courts and courts of arbitration.

46. In general, the area of territorial jurisdiction of the courts is the same as the designation used for the administrative division (Law 20/88 of December 31 on the adjustment of criminal and civil procedural laws) except in Benguela province, which has two Provincial Courts because of the degree of socioeconomic development of the municipality of Lobito. Consequently, the country has nineteen provincial courts. The organization of the provincial courts, in terms of the law, includes divisions of specialized jurisdiction, namely: the civil and administrative division; the common crimes division; the family division; and the labour division. There is one division that has generic jurisdiction in the provinces where the number of cases does not justify such organization.

47. The country does not yet have courts in every municipality because the conditions to enable establishing them do not yet exist. Of the 32 municipal courts created by the law, some try cases for acts that occur in neighbouring municipalities. One example is Luanda, whose administrative division has nine municipalities, but only three municipal courts (Ingombota, Viana and Cacuaco), in accordance with the Law,¹³ have assigned responsibilities to the court of Ingombota to try cases from the other municipalities that have not yet set up courts.

4. Chief Prosecutor

48. The Chief Prosecutor (PGR) is an administrative justice body responsible for exercising generic control over legality so that the law is observed by all public and private institutions and by all citizens in general. It represents the State, exercises criminal action, and validates and

¹³ Except Lunda Norte province.

determines prison sentences and the release of citizens, defends the interests of minors and other disabilities, absent parties and workers, and has other duties as well. The challenges it is confronting at this time are to control pretrial detention, expansion to the municipalities, updating legislation, and training and qualification of magistrates in the area of human rights.

5. Office of the Ombudsman

49. The Ombudsman (PJ) is an independent public body that is to defend the rights, freedoms and guarantees of the citizens. Through informal means, it ensures justice and the legality of the Public Administration. When elected in June 2005 by the National Assembly, to whom citizens may submit complaints for actions or omissions by the authorities, Angola took a great leap forward in promoting the defense of human rights, giving proof that the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens are guaranteed.

50. In view of its nature (dealing with complaints with no decision-making authority), the processing of lawsuits as part of its work, this office observes a set of legal procedures that includes requests for information and clarifications, or issuing opinions and recommendations to institutions based on the type of complaints the citizens submit. They expect replies within the statutory time frame of 45 days.

6. Local government

51. The armed conflict after the 1992 legislative and presidential elections made it impossible to hold periodic elections in Angola, and in particular the local elections to elect the executive and administrative bodies as part of the State organization, in accordance with Article 145 of the Constitutional Law. Since the local governments sought to pursue the people's own interests, with elected representative bodies and the freedom of administration of the respective communities to do so (art. 146 of the CL). Article 146 further provides that the administrative bodies are local administrative units, decentralized from the central Government, and that, at that level, they seek to perform the specific tasks of the State administration, guide economic and social development, and ensure that community services are provided in their respective geographic areas.

52. Currently, and in accordance with the Constitutional Law, the governor of the province, appointed by the President of the Republic, is the government's representative at that level. He is responsible for leading the governance of the province, ensuring that the local administrative bodies function normally, and answering for the activities before the government and the President of the Republic.

53. In terms of legal pluralism, the Angolan State is assisted by the traditional authorities which, in carrying out their duties, apply rules of customary law in accordance with the practices and customs of each geographic or socio-cultural area of the country. They make decisions with practical efficiency based on acceptance of the by the parties involved. However, these decisions can be overturned if they conflict with the law or violate the fundamental principles.

54. A study by the Intersectoral Commission, created by the President of the Republic, with the purpose of establishing a Legal Statute for the Traditional Authorities, which determines its positioning, the authority and jurisdiction of the traditional authorities in the country that will provide a clear pattern in exercising power and in relation to the State and citizen.

C. Promotion and dissemination of human rights

1. Programmes and activities for the dissemination of human rights

55. Several governmental and non-governmental institutions are involved in the promotion and dissemination of human rights, namely: the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reinsertion; the Ministry of the Family and Women's Empowerment; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Foreign Relations; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Public Administration, Employment and Social Security; the Ministry of the Interior; the National Children's Institute; Agostinho Neto University; the Chief Prosecutor; the Order of Attorneys of Angola; the Ombudsman; the Provincial Human Rights Committees; the Provincial and Municipal Networks for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights; and the networks and NGOs that work with human rights.

56. The programmes for the dissemination of statutory and administrative normative instruments, which include content that directly or indirectly covers the fulfilment of obligations arising from membership in the international human rights instruments and that are regularly carried out in the different sectors of governance, for example: The television programme "Law for All," coordinated by PGR, is broadcast every two weeks and seeks to promote legal awareness in the population in general; the Campaign to Prevent Family Violence entitled "There will be no violence in my family," promoted by the Ministry of the Family and Women's Empowerment (MINFAMU) in 2006; the current campaign "Violence Is Also Crime," the *Março Mulher* and *Mulher Africana* Days that seek to encourage the participation of women in public life and policy with equal opportunities, as well as the Annual 16-day Activism Campaign against Gender Violence, carried out throughout the country from November 25 to December 10, to raise the people's awareness of the necessity to report cases of violence, stimulate dialogue in the families and communities, and fight domestic violence, also promoted by the MINFAMU; the Children's Days that are carried out annually under INAC sponsorship from June 1 to 16, with the celebration of the International and African Children's Days, whose purpose is to promote and disseminate children's rights; the Campaign to Combat Violence against the Child in 2005 and 2006, carried out throughout the country by INAC; and the Programme to Train and Initiate Child Reporters, now in progress in Zaire province under INAC sponsorship.

57. In addition to the radio programmes in Portuguese and the national languages, the Office of Human Rights in the MINJUS published the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in national languages, for the purpose of disseminating human rights norms and principles. The Office also held situational analysis workshops for the purpose of improving the status of human rights in the respective provinces.

58. After the Seminar to Improve National Capacities in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights for Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in Maputo and organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in a partnership with the government of Mozambique, the Government began to prepare the National Human Rights Action Plan through a commission coordinated by the Ministry of Justice. The commission was comprised of senior officials from the government and civil society. This plan seeks to identify problematic areas in terms of violations of rights, provide a framework of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the sectoral policies, and give grants for designing short-, medium- and long-term programmes.

59. The Justice Reform Commission, created by presidential decision, includes a human rights approach in its work, holding public meetings on the revision of the legislation and the creation of better conditions to ensure better access to justice. The results of the programmes created are: the project to revise the Criminal Code, that has already received major contributions from the State agencies and civil society in a very participatory process; the law on political parties; the National Action Plan Against Domestic and Intra-Family Violence, which seeks to decrease cases of domestic and intra-family violence, to adopt and implement legislative measures and mechanisms to protect and defend victims; and the preparation of legislation that seeks to promptly and effectively punish crimes of family violence and juvenile delinquency.

60. As part of “Legality Week”, held every year in April with reporting visits, lectures, interviews and seminars, the Chief Prosecutor attempts to make visible the programmes it carries out, namely legality audits, crime analyses and other relevant issues.

61. The Ninth National Assembly Commission holds an annual national event around December 10 to commemorate International Human Rights Day.

62. In May 2005, the Intersectoral Commission, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Relations, held a training programme¹⁴ for specialists from the different governmental and non-governmental sectors that included training for preparing the first common core report of the State of Angola on human rights.

63. After the members of the above-mentioned Commission were trained, this programme conducted seminars in the capital cities of the country’s 18 provinces. During these seminars, the content of the treaties ratified by the State of Angola were discussed (CCPR, CESC, CEDAW and CRC), and the provincial authorities and civil society had their awareness of human rights raised.

64. MINFAMU and its social partners disseminated international legal instruments on women’s rights.

65. The National Children’s Institute (INAC) and the Ministry of Social Communication (MCS) joined forces in the area of the commitments made by the Government, the United Nations agencies and civil society to increase the dissemination by means of social communication of information on children’s development, especially for young children. The coordination of efforts and the joint programmes under the INAC mandate the stronger institutional advocacy exercises in order to foster initiatives to address the many and varied problems of children.¹⁵ The Children’s Days that the INAC organizes every year from 1 to 16 June, when

¹⁴ Intersectoral Training on the Preparation of Human Rights Reports, held from May 24 to 27, 2005, at Hotel Trópico in Luanda, administered by functionaries of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

¹⁵ For the INAC mandate, see initial report of Angola on the implementation of the CRC (CRC/C/3/Add.66, paras. 28-33).

international children's days and African children's days are celebrated respectively, are the most important times when all of society is called on to reflect on situations that violate children's rights.

2. Training in the area of human rights

66. In the 2002/2006 period, the Office of Human Rights in the Ministry of Justice carried out the Training and Evaluation Programme in the Human Rights Sector in every province in the country, building local technical and institutional capacities in order to ensure observance by the people.

67. Likewise, the Chief Prosecutor, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and with the involvement of other players from civil society, began carrying out training programmes in 2006 for human rights monitors in all provinces (provincial and municipal seats) in the country, with the purpose of training magistrates in human rights, disseminating international norms and existing methods for protecting human rights.

68. In September 2006 and August 2007, the National Union of Magistrates of the Prosecutor's Office conducted seminars on organized crime and corruption respectively, in which international human rights norms and other topics were addressed.

69. With the purpose of providing effective and quality police service for all citizens, the General Commander of the National Police, a body that falls under the Ministry of the Interior, implemented four years ago its "Development and Modernization Programme"¹⁶ for a period of 10 years. This aims to improve the knowledge and attitudes of policemen and police officials and to improve their skills. Human rights are administered as an integral part of the police role and functions¹⁷ in specific training for specialists in the area of human rights in courses and seminars for the police, making them a permanent and integrated component of general training.

70. In cooperation with OHCHR, the National Police conducted training in the provinces of Luanda, Lunda-Norte, Lunda-Sul, Huambo, Benguela and Bié, and in a few municipalities, with the objective of increasing the knowledge of law enforcement personnel in human rights.

¹⁶ International norms: Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

¹⁷ The document stresses principles such as the requirement of serving and protecting all members of the community impartially, the requirements for lawful detention and the prohibition of arbitrary detention, the legal rights of the detainee, including the right to the presumption of innocence, the total prohibition of torture, including the policemen's right to refuse to obey an order to torture a person.

71. In the context of introducing alternative dispute resolution for conflicts into the Angolan legal system, the Ministry of Justice prepared a training and capacity-strengthening programme for mediators in partnership with OHCHR.

72. In creating and expanding the Networks for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, INAC held provincial workshops to train its members (staff from State and government bodies, civil society, the traditional authorities and community leaders) in children's rights.

3. Role of the social communication bodies

73. The existing State social communication bodies are: Angola Press News Agency; Public Television of Angola and a few provincial stations; Angola National Radio and its provincial broadcasters; Rádio Escola, Jornal de Angola,¹⁸ all with representative offices in the 18 provinces. Existing private bodies are: Rádio Ecclésia, Catholic Broadcasting; Luanda Antena Comercial; Rádio Despertar; Rádio Marena in Benguela; the provincial radio stations of Cabinda, Huila and Benguela; Agora, Angolense; Seminário Angolense, Folha 8, A Capital, Independente, published in Luanda, and Cruzeiro do Sul, Chela Press, published in Benguela and Huila, respectively. Difficulties in coverage have been noted, due to structural and economic factors related to the distribution of electricity, the acquisition of radio and television equipment, as well as batteries and other alternative means and sources of low-cost energy. This situation has been improving with the creation of community radio and television listening and viewing centres.

74. Resources for social communication are privileged partnerships for addressing and reporting on issues that violate human rights, with greater emphasis on cases of domestic violence, primarily in the reporting and prevention of new acts, and institutional advocacy for social mobilization in the fight against this situation which violates human rights.

75. The social communication bodies (public and private) are tasked with promoting and protecting human rights. This responsibility stems naturally from its own function of training, informing and recreating, as well as the statutes, primarily the Constitutional Law, which enshrines freedom of expression and the press in its article 35.

76. The press publishes only in Portuguese, while the radio and television communication organizations have national language programmes, run by the main ethnic-linguistic groups.

77. International donors have provided valuable assistance to the means of social communication, mainly in the form of financial and technical assistance as well as human resources through bilateral agreements between states, institutions and companies, as well as in the context of multilateral mechanisms of agencies and organizations that specialize in this area.

¹⁸ The only national daily, with a rather limited circulation for covering the country. The rural community has less access to newspapers.

4. Civil society

78. The Association Act – Law 14/91 of May 11 laid the foundation for the emergence of philanthropic (non-profit) professional, scientific, cultural and recreational associations at the national, regional or local level. There are 329 national NGOs and 133 international NGOs that operate in Angola, for a total of 462 NGOs. They work in social and development areas such as: education, health, human rights, institutional support, civic education, elections and agriculture, to mention a few. Of these, about 30 per cent have representative offices in the country. Some engage in specialized activities. These are the Union of Magistrates of the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Order of Physicians, the Order of Attorneys of Angola, the Union of Journalists and Professors, and the Human Rights Coordination Council (CCDH).

79. The Order of Attorneys of Angola stands out in that it is one of the associations of public law, and is a legal and autonomous entity, regulated by Decree No. 28/96 of September 13. Its mission is to defend the values of the democratic state of law, the rights, freedoms and guarantees of the citizens, to cooperate in the administration of justice, and to promote the knowledge and application of the law, and arrange legal assistance services for citizens who are financially unable to hire an attorney. This has become an essential part of the compliance, defense and protection of human rights.

80. The Angolan Women's Organization (OMA), a social organization of the MPLA, stands out in the role it plays of emancipating women and in the activities it carries out in the mediation of family conflicts and pacification.

81. With the objective of promoting greater harmony and more efficient coordination and interaction among them and with the government, several platforms or coalitions were created:

(a) The Angolan Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations (FONGA), created in 1991, consists of 65 per cent of all Angolan organizations and contributes to building the capacities of its members, promoting and sharing experiences, holding interchanges through the dissemination and sharing of information to create an environment that fosters its members' activities, carrying out advocacy programmes and influencing public policies, promoting partnerships, and facilitating member access to the donor community;

(b) The Human Rights Coordination Council (CCDH), created on 10 December 2005 in Luanda,¹⁹ is a group formed by several human rights organizations from Angolan civil society. Its mission is to promote and advocate for human rights, carry out information, educational and cultural programmes with the purpose of training and raising society's awareness for advocating for human rights, carry out advocacy with nongovernmental organizations linked to State bodies and international partners, and take public positions to report or defend human rights that are violated, and prepare annual reports on the state of human rights in Angola;

¹⁹ Published in *Official Gazette* III, Series 106 of 1 September 2006.

(c) The Technical Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UTCAH), is a body of the government that is part of MINARS and was created by Decree No. 30/98. Its mission is to coordinate, control and verify the programmes/activities of national and foreign NGOs. It facilitates obtaining work visas and customs clearance for goods, products and materials that are imported or donated to the NGOs. It informs the Government about NGO activities and serves as interlocutor between them and the State institutions while it regularly organizes various meetings.

82. In Angola there are still 108 non-governmental organizations²⁰ working to protect people who are HIV-positive, and 30 per cent of them work with the provincial representative offices and/or work directly at the provincial level.

83. Angola's civil society organizations carry out programmes in the areas of social development, the promotion of peace, harmony, national reconciliation, social solidarity, social, economic, political and cultural justice, and they contribute to building a democratic State under the rule of law.

84. The process of legalizing NGOs and other national and international civil society organizations by the Government observes the provisions of Law 14/91, the Association Act of May 11, and Decree-Law No. 84/02 – the Regulation of NGOs. These legal instruments have proven to be unsuitable for the current context. Administrative procedures make it necessary for the Ministry of Justice to request opinions from the sectors that deal with the NGO service objective for approval purposes. However, in practice, although this would appear to be judicious for good relations and operations, the process is excessively slow. Consequently, the process is being revised.

5. Gender predominance

85. In Angola, the CEDAW convention is made fully applicable by the Constitutional Law, whose article 18 provides that “all citizens shall be equal under the law. They enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties, without distinction as to colour, race, ethnicity, gender, place of birth, religion, ideology, degree of education, or economic or social condition”.

86. Seeking to create a sound foundation for the practical promotion of the equality of women, the draft of the new Constitution defines “equality” instead of “non-discrimination” against women in a manner consistent with article 1 of the Convention. The legislative revision, now in progress, will make it possible to fully apply CEDAW. This fact is being confirmed with the revision of the Criminal Code, already completed, and now it is consistent with international instruments, and with CEDAW in particular, since all discriminatory aspects have been removed.

87. As an international instrument of human rights in national legal policy, CEDAW is being disseminated through means of social communication, technical meetings, seminars, workshops, and the distribution of graphic materials such as signs and pamphlets.

²⁰ Source: ANASO directory.

88. To promote women's awareness of their rights and legal aspects, and to enable them to assert their rights under the Constitutional Law and other laws in effect, as well as CEDAW, the National Assembly has the Group of Women Parliamentarians (GMP), consisting of all women deputies without distinction based on party affiliation. The objectives of GMP are to promote activities that help maximize the multi-faceted development of women, with special emphasis on their participation in national political activities, as well as identifying policies to promote gender equality, so that they are not subject to violence and discrimination, and so that they are guaranteed equal opportunities in every social sphere. To achieve these goals, GMP carries out awareness campaigns with the people, either through training programmes and information campaigns or through mass dissemination.

89. GMP proposes legislation in the interest of Angolan women and gives them adequate legal protection. MINFAMU is the government body that identifies and implements the national policy to defend and guarantee women's rights in the family, at work, in the community, and in society in general. As a member of the Council of Ministers, GMP takes to this collegial body the evaluations of the Family Council and the Multisectoral Coordination Council for gender issues. It proposes the adoption of political and administrative measures to achieve equality in rights through the Ministry of Planning.

90. To promote gender issues in the State and in government organizations, focal points were established in the following bodies: MED, MINUA, MININT, MAPESS, MINUA, MCS, MCHT, MINADER, MIREX, MAVG, MGM, MINFIN, MINPLAN, MCC, MINEA, MCT and MINCULT, and in other institutions and businesses such as INAC, Endiama, Sonangol and EDEL.

91. Activities carried out in the area of gender are cross-cutting and sectoral in scope. Therefore, this issue is addressed at the central and local levels and by area, namely parliamentary, governmental, diplomatic and judicial.

92. In terms of parliamentary representation, the 30 per cent goal was not achieved during the period.

93. Available information shows that the number of women has risen in central and local government bodies. It can be stressed that, for the first time in Angola, women are beginning to be appointed to positions of vice governor, and municipal and communal administrator, which were previously occupied by men.

94. In the area of diplomacy, a slight increase in women's participation has been noted, while among magistrates there was significant representation by women in 2005. However, compared to 2005, there was a negative change of nearly half in 2006.

III. SUBSTANTIVE COMMON PROVISIONS

A. Non-discrimination and equality

95. Article 18 of the Constitutional Law (CL) recognizes the right to equality and non-discrimination as fundamental principles of the democratic State and provides that the law will severely punish acts that seek to interfere with social harmony or create discrimination and privileges based on these factors. This provision finds statutory support in article 7 of the CL, which promotes economic, social and cultural solidarity among all the regions of Angola for the common development of the entire nation.

96. In compliance with article 165 of the Constitutional Law, the laws and regulations in effect in the Republic of Angola are applicable as long as they have not been repealed or amended and do not conflict with the letter and spirit of the CL, so that the law itself is a mechanism for guaranteeing that there is no discrimination against any group in particular.

97. These constitutional provisions prove that all citizens in Angola are equal under the law, and enjoy the same rights, except in given situations where exceptions are made in the special interest of individuals, always seeking to protect them against negative influences, for example, special schools for the disabled, Paralympic sports, specialized medical services for women, women's organizations, sports classes for women, children, youth, etc., minimum ages for the exercise of certain rights, or situations considered positive discrimination.

98. The Government implements programmes that seek to change attitudes arising from traditional discriminatory cultural practices that still prevail throughout the country, with considerable impact on some regions, such as unequal opportunities for access to school between boys and girls, and limited access to basic quality health care for children of poor families, through programmes to improve and expand basic education and health services.

99. Practical mechanisms to control discrimination in Angola include the Ninth Commission of the National Assembly, which receives complaints and petitions from the citizens, the Office of Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, and the Office of the Ombudsman.

B. Children

100. Official documents show that children in Angola are the largest group, yet also the most underprivileged and vulnerable group. In an effort to have Angolan society reflect on children, in June 2004 the Government held the First National Forum on the Care and Development of Young Children (up to 5 years of age) with the theme "Everything is determined before the fifth year of life". In June 2005 there was the Second Forum. It was more far-reaching and the theme was "The whole child and every child." In June 2007 the Third Forum on Children was held. It was non-discriminatory and the theme was "Children: an absolute priority."

101. Despite the Government's efforts to honour its domestic and international commitments, and in particular the commitments made in the 27th special session of the United Nations General Assembly on goals to build "A world fit for children," the status of children in Angola is not yet among the best.

102. Angola endorsed the Declaration and the Plan of Action that emerged from the 27th special session of the General Assembly and it implemented programmes in the area of the four goals to build "A world fit for children" as shown in the paragraphs below.

Promoting healthy lives

103. With regard to the goal of promoting healthy lives – it was found that the infant mortality rate in Angola is one of the highest in the world, where one in four children dies before reaching age 5 and children under 5 years of age account for 55 per cent of deaths.²¹ The main direct causes are acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and other diseases. These are caused by poor access to clean water and adequate methods of waste disposal, in particular in rural areas where many families (60 per cent) have no access to drinking water and many others are deprived of means of waste disposal (75 per cent).

104. To address this, the Government has been implementing maternal-infant health care and services to accelerate the decrease in maternal-infant mortality. These include: national immunization campaigns against measles and the administration of vitamins to children; polio eradication campaigns; the national "Long live healthy lives" campaign, with many interventions; routine immunization to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus; and the National Malaria Programme that distributed over 500,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and malaria treatment kits.

Combating HIV/AIDS

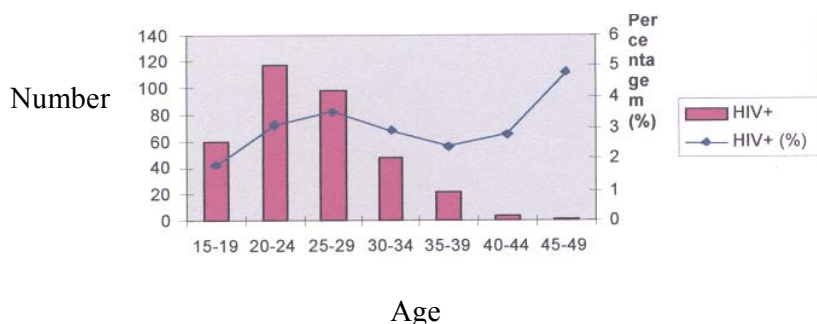
105. The goal of combating HIV/AIDS is a growing concern among the relatively youthful people of Angola (MICS 2001). The study of HIV infection rates, syphilis and hepatitis B, carried out in the country in 2004, showed that the prevalence of HIV infection among pregnant women undergoing prenatal consultation was 2.8 per cent, with a value between 0.8 and 9.1 per cent, and a 2.5 per cent prevalence rate for Angola. Although the estimated HIV prevalence rate is relatively low, the extremely limited knowledge and dominant attitudes about HIV/AIDS are reasons for concern, as they contribute significantly to higher projected prevalence rates over the coming years.

106. The number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) due to HIV/AIDS is rising and recent indicators point to many cases in the border provinces.

²¹ National Department of Public Health (Third National Forum on Children).

Figure 1

HIV+ Positive - group table



Source: Ministry of Health - Study of HIV Seroprevalence, Syphilis and Hepatitis B, pregnant women in prenatal consultation. Angola 2004.

107. To combat the trend in HIV/AIDS prevalence, the following actions are being taken: the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS²² was established in 2002 to combat the spread of the disease. In 2003 the National AIDS Commission was created to provide a multi-sectoral response; the 2003/2004 National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for was approved; to protect affected children from stigma and discrimination, Law 8/04 of December 1 was enacted on HIV/AIDS, and the National AIDS Institute was created in 2005. The evolution of the sector led to the intensification of activities to promote access to voluntary counseling and testing, antiretroviral therapy and mother-to-child transmission prevention (MTCTP) during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding; in 2006 there was a complementarity initiative in the context of cooperation and partnerships between the Government, United Nations agencies and other civil society institutions to establish the basis for and policies to combat the impact of HIV/AIDS on children, The Programme for Action, Analysis and Rapid Evaluation (RAAAP); in 2006 a national campaign was carried out, entitled “Defending life by learning about AIDS,” which raised the level of knowledge, awareness and sensitivity of youths in the 16-to-18 age group about sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV/AIDS. Along those same lines, the Government carried out the project entitled “Informed, responsible and organized youth” (JIRO).

Providing quality education

108. The improvement in access to rural localities in 2002 and the repositioning of the State administration where it was impossible for it to operate during the armed conflict, enabled the dislocated populations and refugees to return to their areas of origin. This caused school enrolment rates to increase in 2003, resulting in a crude enrolment rate of 91 per cent. This increase in students resulted in a crude enrolment rate of 129 per cent in 2006 versus the projected rate of 130.9 per cent in the two-year primary education plan. This demonstrates that there has been a substantial drop in students who are held back. Meanwhile, primary education in the six grades accepted registered children in 2006 who were not in the official age group for

²² National Strategic Plan to Fight HIV/AIDS, Government of Angola.

schooling, i.e. from 6 years to 11 years old. In this respect, the crude admission rate was higher than 100 per cent and the average failure rate was higher than 20 per cent. In 2004 the crude enrolment rate was 127 per cent for girls²³ and 175.6 per cent for boys. In 2005, this indicator reached 170.2 and 181.8 per cent, respectively. We can conclude that the difference between boys and girls is declining. This factor is also seen through the parity index, which was .70 in 2004 and 2005.

109. To promote good access to education, the Government implemented the following initiatives: education reform, begun in 2003. This expanded the four years of primary education, starting in 2004, to six years and sought to guarantee quality education in the country. There was also the rapid evaluation of requirements in the education sector, carried out in several locations, under the Education for All Programme (EPT); the Life and Peace Education Project (EVP) aims to give children learning opportunities through games; Education for Girls, as part of the “African initiative for the education of girls” Programme (IAER); the Back to School Campaign in 2002 was carried out on a national scale, with the great challenge of increasing the number of children in primary school from about 2.5 million in 2003 to 4 million in 2015. The campaign generated a large increase in the number of enrolments in 2003 (nearly one million children) and led the Government to hire 29,000 more primary school teachers throughout the country. Two training sessions were carried out to improve the quality of these teachers. One project, on educational necessities for youth outside the school system, was also implemented and covered nearly 90,000 teenagers, the Teacher Training Master Plan (PMFP). Schools for Africa, which laid the groundwork for a national strategic plan for the package of norms and policies for building schools, particularly in rural areas, and to increase the attention paid to other key components of a holistic school, such as school hygiene.

Child protection

110. With regard to the goal of child protection, the Council of Ministers approved Decree No. 31/07. The decree establishes free birth registration for children up to 5 years of age and designs the identity card for children from 8 to 11 years old.

111. There are programmes to control violence, sexual exploitation, kidnapping, and child trafficking and labour, which are very current and hot-button issues in Angola, and where violations of children’s rights occur most, especially sexual abuse, discrimination, negligence and violence in the family, urban and rural communities, involvement in severe types of child labour (in diamond mines, border localities, airports, markets and bus terminals) and economic exploitation (dangerous activities, such as high-seas fishing in Namibe Province).

112. To prevent kidnapping and trafficking, the Government, with UNICEF support, has been investigating patterns of child trafficking and has begun to prepare national strategies to implement means to prevent domestic and/or foreign trafficking of children. An action plan was adopted for the region of Huila (Matala) and Santa Clara (a border location in Cunene), with a national component that involves major bodies such as MAPESS, MINARS, MINSAs, MED, MININT (Border Police, DNIC, and SME), MINFAMU and others.

²³ Source: MED.

113. In order to update the Action and Intervention Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, approved by Decree 24/99, INAC is carrying out a programme to evaluate its implementation and is awaiting the results of the programme; this will contribute significantly to planning actions and strengthening the strategy.

C. Ethnic groups and minorities

114. Soon after national independence, Angola enacted laws that did forbid discriminatory treatment based on the fact that citizens belonged to certain minority ethnic groups. Article 18 of the Constitutional Law ensures that they will have equal rights without any discrimination. The lack of information made it impossible to include these ethnic origin categories in the national statistical data system. The General Census of the Population, to be carried out by the Government as soon as the conditions are met, will address this worrisome situation and will provide better knowledge of the demographic situation in Angola, the structure of statistical data and of other relevant information that is so necessary, in particular population figures disaggregated by ethnic group, race, nationality, skin colour, language and other factors.

D. The disabled and the elderly

115. The Government has made efforts to implement public policies and, consequently, to offer basic social services to the people, and to the disabled (PPD) in particular. This is done through the project entitled “Community-based rehabilitation” (RBC). Job-oriented physical rehabilitation, education/schooling, technical-vocational training, and psycho-social support based in the communities seeks to integrate the disabled where they live by facilitating access to basic social services. This is a very positive experience in which the disabled are accepted by the communities and one of the mechanisms for gradually reducing discrimination and stigmatization.

116. Decree No. 21/82 of April 22 protects the disabled in employment. However, in many cases its provisions are violated because some private and even public companies pass over the disabled, stating that they are not profitable workers and that they require additional investments in order to make architectural changes in their facilities. This is flagrant discrimination. The fact that no regulations have yet been prepared for the laws on grants for the disabled and the social protection framework law are also factors of discrimination.

117. Estimates from 2005 showed that there are about 170,000 disabled persons in Angola. Most of those people are between 25 and 44 years old, and 8,170 have been assisted by the government (56 per cent are males). Of these, 61.9 per cent have motor disabilities, 28.3 per cent have sensory disabilities, and 9.8 per cent have mental disabilities. The motor disabilities came about by amputation as a result of explosives, mines in particular, which account for 75 per cent of these disabilities, while 22 per cent were caused by polio. The provinces with the highest concentration of disabled persons are Kuanza Sul (11.75 per cent), Luanda (9.55 per cent), Benguela (8.65 per cent), Lunda Norte (7.81 per cent), and Huambo (7.1 per cent).

118. Some of the reasons for the high number of disabled persons are: the effects of the prolonged armed conflict; weaknesses in the health system and a lack of prevention programmes as a consequence of the war; the after-effects of illnesses; congenital situations; a low level of education of the families, that did not do a good job of taking care of their children or they neglected them.

119. The disabled must cope with a variety of problems due to various factors related to: health (difficult access to health services, a shortage of specialized equipment, difficulty accessing medical and drug assistance, limited means of movement and compensating devices due to a lack of financial resources); water and hygiene (difficulty accessing water supply points due to distance and physical barriers); psychological instability (stress, annoyance, depression, sentiments of revolt and frustration); social and family aspects (a low level of social conscience in recognizing the capacities and skills that enable them to carry out useful activities, abuse, negligence, ill-treatment, marginalization and stigmatization, disrespect, psychological violence, humiliation and family abandonment, lack of recreational spaces, difficulties accessing public transportation, and failing to obtain a birth certificate because parents are ashamed); economic aspects (extreme poverty due to an absence or lack of sufficient resources; loss of properties as a result of contracting the disability, and lack of social protection).

120. In an attempt to gradually decrease discrimination and the stigmatization of the disabled, social integration projects are being carried out in agricultural production, animal-raising and vocational training.

E. Women

121. Discriminatory situations exist as a result of the country's culture and history, in particular in families in which women are occasionally still treated as inferior and are prevented from enjoying certain rights.

122. However, article 29, points 1 and 2, of the Constitutional Law provide that the family is the fundamental nucleus of the organization of society and is protected by the State. Whether based on marriage or de facto union, men and women are equal, and they enjoy the same rights and have the same duties.

123. Other discriminatory situations that women face are found in the workplace, particularly in private companies (domestic and foreign), where the following are frequently noted: imbalances in women's participation in decision-making bodies; and a preference for passing over women during or after the maternal leave period.

124. The rights of working women are constantly being violated by employers under the pretext that they do not know their rights, even though women most need a salary. The incidence of the factors cannot be measured due to the weakness in the legal culture that causes women not to file complaints.

125. Considerable work has been done by the Government and its social partners in providing legal education for the people, and for women in particular, by expanding information, communication and education programmes on women's and children's rights, including the use of national languages and accessible methods such as the arts, audiovisual techniques, and social communication organs.

126. In a partnership with its social partners, the Government is implementing the National Strategy and Strategic Framework to Promote Gender Equality based on the Beijing and Dakar Action Platform, approved by the Standing Commission of the Council of Ministers in 2001.

127. The Extension and Rural Development Programme is being implemented in the country and is being coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER). This is an opportunity for rural women to take part in the process of developing the country, mainly through projects and programmes for the economic empowerment of rural women that includes microloans and micro-businesses for rural women.

128. In 1997 the Council of Ministers approved the Strategy for Empowering Women by the year 2000 in compliance with the recommendations of the Dakar and Beijing Conferences, with the purpose of promoting women's participation in the peace process, fighting poverty, women's education and training, maternal health, cultural, family, societal and environmental issues, managing natural resources, political emancipation, the enjoyment of human rights, the fight against domestic violence, the preparation, use and universal availability of data disaggregated by gender, information, communication and art, and matters related to girls.²⁴

129. The implementation of the Strategy involved public and private institutions as well as non-governmental organizations with the following principal activities: the ANG/97.PO3 Project – Support for Gender Issues and the Women's Empowerment, with the purpose of strengthening the institutional capacities of the MINFAMU at all levels and of some national NGOs; the ANG/97/010 Project – Peace-Building and the Promotion of Development Opportunities between Youths and Women, carried out from May 1998 to October 2002.

130. Due to the broad scope of the concept, domestic violence is the most common violation of women's rights in Angola. To prevent the prevalence of acts of violence, the MINFAMU-instituted Family Counselling Centres. They have specialized frameworks (psychologists, sociologists and attorneys) and carry out psychosocial and legal counselling activities for victims of violence. In 2006, throughout the country, there were roughly 3,271 victims of violence (2,919 were women and 352 were men). The provinces with the greatest incidence of cases are: Luanda (30.66 per cent), Benguela (19.83 per cent), Bié (8.15 per cent), and Lunda Norte (1.26 per cent). However, the enactment of the Mediation and Conciliation Act will make a valuable contribution to preventing and mitigating the situation which is the current and more relevant expression of violations of human rights in Angola.

²⁴ See report of Angola on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AGO/1-3).

131. Counselling activities for women who are victims of violence and other similar acts are shared by several civil society organizations under a partnership with MINFAMU, which provides statistical data for the requisite processing and incorporation into the Ministry's database. This worthwhile partnership has made it possible for staff from civil society organizations to participate in training programmes, and in qualification and advanced training.

132. MINFAMU also carries out advocacy programmes to make families aware of their responsibilities.

133. To ensure that victims of violence or persons directly or indirectly related to them obtain legal assistance, MINFAMU initialed a cooperation memorandum with the Order of Attorneys of Angola in February 2001 to assign attorneys to the Family Counselling Centres created in all the provinces.

134. In November 2001, after the special Beijing + 5 Session, the Government used the ANG/97/PO3 Project as a basis for preparing the Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality by 2005 (EPG). The principal themes were: poverty (economy, the environment and natural resources); education (education, information, communication, the arts, culture, socialization, family, science and technology); Health (for children, adults and the elderly); Citizenship Rights (participation in the peace process, political emancipation, violence and gender); Children's Rights; Data Disaggregated by Gender; and Institutional Mechanisms for the sustainability of the Strategy, and the Council of Ministers approved a specific budget for the year 2003.

F. Right to participate in citizenship and access to public political service

135. The "Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians in 1999" sprang from the advocacy work the Government carried out. In addition to women ministers and deputies, it includes women vice governors and ambassadors who are either in office or have completed their terms; the Women's Network/Angola was also a result of their work in 1998. It is a forum of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, associations and governmental institutions; finally, there is the Federation of Angolan Businesswomen, created in 2001.

136. Another result of this work is the sensitivity of the leaders and citizens who are members of the political parties. They created conditions suitable for giving women the opportunity to actively participate in the electoral process, with decision-making responsibilities, with the objective of reaching the goal of 30 per cent women under the SADC agreement.

137. The political parties in Angola compete based on a political solidarity project for organizing and expressing the will of the citizens, taking part in political life and the expression of universal suffrage by democratic and peaceful means. Its objectives, programmes and practices contribute to: the consolidation of the Nation, national independence and strengthened

national unity; safeguarding the territorial integrity; defending national sovereignty and democracy; protecting fundamental freedoms and the rights of the individual; and defending the republican form and the unitary and secular nature of the State.²⁵

138. Article 28 of the CL provides that all citizens who are at least 18 years old, other than citizens legally deprived of their political and civil rights, are entitled to and must take an active part in public life.

139. The full exercise of rights is supported by the Constitutional Law and Law 16/91, which give citizens the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration, and determines the manners in which citizens or groups of individuals may exercise this right without violating the statutory provisions that guarantee peaceful coexistence, tranquillity and social harmony.

140. The electoral legislative package does not allow immigrant workers to participate in elections in Angola in that elections are exclusively for Angolans, and these immigrant workers have not acquired Angolan citizenship.

141. Active and passive participation in the electoral process is guaranteed for all Angolan citizens over 18 years old who are in full possession of their mental faculties, and there is no discrimination based on gender. It is incumbent on the political parties to take care of the number of women who participate actively, in that they compete with men under equal circumstances and thus are able to rise to political positions that ensue from this.

142. Limitations on voting rights are applicable only to aliens, minors less than 18 years old on the date of the vote, the mentally ill as determined by their health, and criminals who are not in possession of their civil and political rights, either temporarily or permanently.

143. Based on the interpretation of article 31, which gives the State, the family and society the duty of promoting the harmonious development of the personality of youth and the creation of conditions for the fulfilment of the economic, social and cultural rights of youth, namely in education, vocational training, culture, access to first jobs, labour, social security, physical education, sports and the use of leisure time, since, in Angola, all citizens take an active part in public life in some way, for example: mass membership in political parties; the number of social organizations and membership in them; active participation in the 1992 elections and the election registry in 2007; mass participation in cultural, athletic and recreational programmes, etc., with extremely satisfactory indicators on the citizens' right of participation.

144. The Angolan Act, namely article 19 of the Constitutional Law, strengthened by the Civil and Family Codes, enshrines the right of citizenship for the citizen, who acquires this through the Individual Vital Statistics Booklet based on the personal identity card, which confirms the instrument of access to the identity card, which guarantees the right to exercise citizenship.

145. In Angola, citizenship is determined based on the principles of jus sanguinis and jus soli or by birth, parents and marriage (Law 1/05 of July 1),²⁶ and it may be acquired by foreign citizens.

²⁵ Constitutional Law, art. 4.

On the date of the application, an applicant simply must be an adult according to the laws of Angola and of their country of origin, have resided in Angola for at least 10 years, provide moral and civic guarantees for their integration into Angolan society, and possess the ability to orient themselves and ensure their subsistence. A foreign citizen who marries an Angolan may acquire Angolan citizenship after five years from the request that is approved by the spouse. Marriage to a foreigner does not affect the spouse's citizenship for this reason, other than by a free and sovereign decision made by that person.

146. Angolan citizenship may also be acquired by application. An individual who is born in Angolan territory and has no other citizenship; an individual who is born in Angolan territory and is the son of unknown parents, or is of an unknown citizenship or stateless.

147. Citizens who do the following lose their Angolan citizenship: those who voluntarily acquire another citizenship and renounce Angolan citizenship; those who exercise sovereignty functions in favour of a foreign country without the authorization of the National Assembly; those who are minors born of Angolans abroad and who acquire that country's citizenship and then refuse to be Angolans when they become adults; children adopted by foreign nationals who refuse to be Angolans when they become adults; convicts sentenced for crimes against State security who have acquired citizenship by application; or those who serve in the military of a foreign State.

148. The conditions created around the process of organizing the second elections in Angola according to the law are premises that favour access to political and public service by the citizens as part of a legislative package that consists of: Law 3/97 of March 13 on the financing of political parties, Law No. 3/05 of July 1, on the Guidelines that Govern the Electoral Register System; Law 6/05 of August 10 (the Elections Act) and Law 10/05 of July 14 (Electoral Conduct Acts).

G. Economic and social issues

1. The people's living conditions

149. Angola is potentially one of the richest agricultural countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Before independence Angola was sufficient in terms of food and a large exporter of agricultural products, including coffee, sisal, cotton, corn, fruits, cassava and others. At this time production is well on the road to recovery. Sources of subsistence are: cassava and sweet potatoes in the north, corn in the central areas and millet and sorghum in the south. Other crops in this area include beans, rice, palm oil, coffee, bananas, pineapples, and citrus and other fruits. There are sizeable pasture areas with herds of cattle and goats, not to mention other livestock such as swine and birds. The coast is one of the richest in fish in Africa, with some industrial species such as mackerel, sardines, scad, tuna, grouper, snapper, shellfish and molluscs among others.

²⁶ Citizenship Act.

150. The encouraging results of the trend in the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) are synthetic indicators of the general level of the people's living conditions. The amount is roughly US\$ 2,565.20 in 2006 (in current prices), versus US\$ 1,984.80 calculated for 2005, a comparison that shows a 29.2 per cent increase. The increase in per capita GDP in 2005 was 57 per cent compared to 2004, when per capita income amounted to about US\$ 1,265.

151. The real growth in the average income of Angolans was about 17 per cent in 2005 and 15.3 per cent in 2006, for a population growth rate of 2.9 per cent. Although national income distribution was stable, it is probable that there was some improvement in the poverty rate. In reality, combined with real growth, public investment in the social area, the effective control of inflation (31 per cent in 2004, 18.5 per cent in 2005 and 12.2 per cent in 2006), and the social inclusion policies in the Government's General Programme, it is likely that the poverty rate in 2006 fell to 50 per cent (in the 2005 Balance Sheet, a value of 56 per cent for that year was calculated, 12.2 per cent below 2000, which is when the Survey of Family Expenses and Income was conducted).

152. Public investments, estimated at around \$1.5 billion, representing a 76.5 per cent increase over 2005, was a real catalyst for the national economy, not just from the standpoint of inducing private investment, which was estimated to reach the figure of US\$ 11.4 billion, but also from the standpoint of the improvement in the people's general living conditions. Of the total amount of the State's investment expenditures, the social sectors received 28.3 per cent, the economic sectors 8.3 per cent, and the infrastructure sectors (highways, railways, energy and water) received about 36.9 per cent.

153. In the policies in the General Programme of the Government for 2005-2006, we note in particular policies in the area of macroeconomic stabilization and the policies that were implemented to induce economic growth in the domestic economy. The positive effects are expressed in foreign exchange stability, the return of confidence in the national currency, which led to a significant increase in deposits in kwanzas, control of the budget deficit, lower inflation, greater transparency in government accounts, and an improvement in the external image of the country with the most important international financial and economic institutions.

154. As for the policies that tend to strengthen non-petroleum production, the following sectors are to be mentioned in particular: public works, the primary sector (agriculture, livestock and fisheries), the generation and distribution of energy and water, and the processing industry. Growth rates of the respective added values in 2006 showed that this is the beginning of a process that may lead to repositioning capacities, an increase in the economy's production potential, and the integration of the domestic market.

155. In reality, this confirms the dynamic growth of the national economy and various domestic and international studies have already taken due note of this. The rates reported by the construction sector, processing industry and agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors, as structures of other bases for a more intense improvement in the people's living conditions, are noteworthy. The major highlight of 2006 was in trade services with a growth rate of over 38 per cent, which reflects the dynamics of transportation, commerce and, in particular, telecommunications, banks and insurance.

156. Despite significant growth which was higher than projected, the processing industry continues to fail to present arguments for competitive diversification and an increase in its participation in meeting the necessities of the domestic market. In 2006 the food and beverage industries continued to account for over 80 per cent of the industrial fabric. They reported that the production of beverages had its highest growth rate last year, at about 36 per cent versus, for example, 1.7 per cent in the chemical industry, 1 per cent in machinery and electrical devices, 1.5 per cent in products derived from wood, and 0.4 per cent in metal products. It should be emphasized that the clothing sector in Angola has disappeared.

157. The State's general budget increased by 15.02 per cent over 2006 and by 183.62 per cent over 2005. The volume of revenue projected for 2007 includes two fundamental components: own revenue (75 per cent), essentially from oil and diamonds; and revenue from domestic and international financing (25 per cent).

158. The increase in revenue is generating a significant improvement in the per capita income of the population, with Angola now in 122nd place out of 177 countries.

Table 12

Trends in the Gross Domestic Product

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007
GDP per capita (USD) ²⁷	800	959	2 129	3 614

2. The right to work²⁸

159. The absolute values given to education and health are evolving in two different directions. There was clearly substantial growth in education, both compared to the initial 2006 State budget, and in terms of the review.

160. Articles 85 to 95 of the General Labour Act stipulate the conditions for performing work, and establish that other normative statutory instruments regulate specific matters, taking its breadth and diversity into account.

161. Thus, the Union Act in effect in Angola (Law No. 21/12/92 of August 28) establishes norms for setting up unions and or union federations, based on democratic principles, with complete independence vis-à-vis the State, political parties, employer organizations and any groups of a non-union nature, based on elections of its governing bodies by a vote in a general assembly of members who also approve the respective statutes that govern them.

²⁷ World Bank - Report 35362 - AO and UNDP.

²⁸ Information from the 2006 Government Programme Survey.

162. The fact that the economic system is based on the coexistence of various types of ownership (public, private, mixed, cooperative and family), protected by the State, fosters the participation of all agents and all types of ownership. This is done through the labour that creates the conditions for national economic development to meet the needs of the citizens. This constitutional provision requires the State to take measures that ensure access for citizens who are able to accept their first jobs and work, and are thus entitled to occupational organization and the exercise of union activity.

163. Employment is a crucial economic variable for domestic economic integration and for ensuring national reconciliation. Available data show that the unemployment rate in 2006 was about 25.2 per cent (four percentage points higher than the rate estimated for 2005). It decreased from 29.2 per cent, and this was certainly due to the dynamics of sponsorships in the construction and fisheries sectors and, to a certain extent, in non-trade services. This ensures the citizens' right to access labour in order to achieve their personal goals and make a significant contribution to the country's development.

164. It is equally important to mention the growth in job creation in the more varied sectors and areas of the national economy.

165. **Agriculture, forestry and livestock sector:** employment in this sector was basically filled by persons from the economic and social resettlement and reintegration process for dislocated persons, refugees and former soldiers, with 72,230 new jobs which in large measure amounted to about 2 per cent of the arable land.

166. **Fisheries sector:** in terms of jobs there was no major change in the performance of the investments that were made. In 2005 there were 41,500 fishermen, and 4,944 new jobs were added to this number, mainly because five small boats were placed in service.

167. **Petroleum:** In 2006, job creation in the sector amounted to about 5 per cent. This growth occurred due to the increase in activity in the industry as a result of investments made in prior years.

168. **Diamonds:** Although no data is available, it is easy to conclude that the increase in the number of companies due to the combination of capital of both public and private origin, such as the Sociedades Mineiras do Catoca, SDM, Chitotolo, Luô, Projecto Mineiro Lunda-Nordeste and the Fundação Brilhante, contribute immensely to the increase in productive activity and hence, to the increase in jobs.

169. **Processing industry sector:** the investments that were made in the sector created 1,827 positions. When added to the number of existing jobs in 2006, it was found that 34,360 people were employed in this sector in 2007.

170. **Construction sector:** the growth in the production of the construction sector created 30,521 positions. When added to the number of jobs in 2005, the total amounts to 206,521 employed workers, or a growth rate of 17 per cent in 2006.

171. **Energy and water sector:** as a result of investments made during the period, 4,690 additional positions were created.

172. **Post and telecommunications sector:** in terms of employment, the sector created 3,257 jobs through operators that are currently in service, corresponding to the level of investment during the year, i.e., guaranteed jobs in 2006, due to the necessity of meeting the demand for telephone services, and mobile services in particular.

173. **Hospitality and tourism sector:** authorized investments created 2,277 jobs, for a growth rate of roughly 374 per cent. The results achieved in the area of employment clearly confirm the role of the tourism and hospitality sector in the performance of Trade Services.

174. **Transportation sector:** although no data is available, the transportation sector is a serious candidate for providing jobs based on the intense activity in passenger and cargo transportation via highways, railways, the seas and by air, which justifies the volume of investments made by the public sector, which carries more weight than the private sector.

175. **Insurance and pension funds:** the significant increase in the number of insurers, insurance mediators/insurance and reinsurance brokers with a volume of premiums that rose from US\$ 271.9 million in 2003 to US\$ 367.6 million in 2005, helped increase the number of jobs, for which no data is available.

176. **Education sector:** in terms of jobs in 2006, the number of teachers at all levels compared to the number in 2005 remained the same.

177. **Health sector:** the increase in the health network saw an increase in the number of health care workers with about 14,071 new workers in the national health system.

178. **Vocational training:** this plays a major role in the employment policy. From 2003 to 2006, considerable growth began to be noticed in the institutions, businesses and players licensed to carry out training and vocational rehabilitation programmes. By the end of 2006 there were 304 vocational training centres, both public and private. Compared to previous years, growth was observed of about 12.2 per cent in 2004, 5.6 per cent in 2005 and 8 per cent in 2006.

179. The number of registrants fell by 14.2 per cent in 2004, while the figure rose by 6.1 per cent in 2005 and 55 per cent in 2006.

180. The vocational training process was a priority in the context of establishing conditions for improving human resources, so that in 2004 and 2005, the creation of conditions in infrastructures took on importance, and this trend strengthened in 2006. Thus, while in 2004 and 2005 there was growth of 11 and 6.7 per cent respectively, growth peaked in 2006 above 12 per cent.

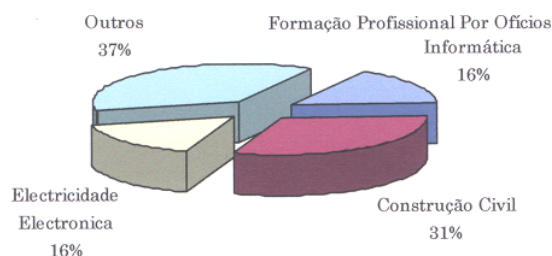
181. National training capacity grew in 2004 from 2003 and in 2005 from 2004 by 1.2 and 32.2 per cent respectively. In 2006 it only reached the figure of 7 per cent, according to the figure, making more resources possible in the supply of the National Vocational Training System and in carrying out Initial Training and Continuing Education programmes as well as vocational adjustment profiles in the labour market.

182. On the other hand, this indicator also points to a greater opening of labor and job opportunities for the citizens, since when they have training, they enjoy greater opportunities for carrying out income-generating activities.

183. The breakdown of training by craft demonstrates that the civil construction specialty, followed by electricity and computer sciences, carry a specific weight above 60 per cent. These indicators clearly demonstrate that trainee interests match the requirements that the labour market has indicated in terms of job offers.

Figure 2

Training: computer sciences, civil construction, electricity and electronics, and other



Source: MAPESS (2005 Government Programme Report).

184. Through direct intervention, the job market employs about 44 per cent of trained citizens, so that the others (56 per cent) opted for other solutions such as self-employment or working independently.

185. It is estimated that roughly 4 per cent of the population of Angola is over 60 years old. In absolute numbers, that equals about 605,000 elderly persons, and all are living in abject poverty.²⁹

3. Objectives of the Social Protection Act

186. Law No. 7/04, the Social Protection Framework Law, repealed Law No. 18/90 of October 27. Its objective is: national solidarity that reflects the distributive character of financing through resources from taxes; the well-being of individuals, families and the community, manifested through social promotion and regional development, gradually decreasing social inequalities and regional asymmetries; preventing situations of need, dysfunction and marginalization, organizing with the recipients themselves special protection programmes for the most vulnerable groups; and ensuring minimal levels of subsistence for individuals and families in particularly serious situations, either because of unpredictability or scope, or the total impossibility of recovery or financial participation for the recipients.

187. The personal scope of implementing the aforementioned law covers the resident population, namely: individuals or families in a serious situation of poverty; disadvantaged

²⁹ Study of the socio-economic conditions of the elderly in Angola (MINARS/2004).

women; children and teenagers with special needs or those who are at risk; elderly persons in a situation of physical or economic dependence and isolation; the disabled, who are at risk or subject to social exclusion; and the unemployed, who are at risk of marginalization.

188. The principle of equality and non-discrimination is legally supported in article 7 of the CL, which furthers economic, social and cultural solidarity among all the regions of Angola for the common development of the entire nation.

189. Based on the provisions of the law, the Government took administrative measures beginning in the period just after national independence. At that time the colonial powers were discriminating against and excluding certain social groups. The State's policies and programmes for protecting and assisting the most vulnerable citizens, such as children, women, the elderly, the disabled and confined minority ethnic groups, are supported by the legislation in effect. The task of revising the laws it finds inappropriate continues, in order to harmonize the laws to make them consistent with international legal instruments.

190. In order for the closely related institutions to play their role of providing better social protection to those who need it, a legislative reform framework was established and has already produced a series of statutes that were enacted as long as conditions permitted, namely: the Preliminary Draft Law on Courts; the Preliminary Draft Law on the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Status of Magistrates in the Office of the Public Prosecutor; the Preliminary Draft Law on Amending the Pretrial Detention Act; the Preliminary Draft Law Modifying the Act on Searches of Persons and Premises and Arrests; the Preliminary Draft Law on the Status of Judicial Magistrates; the Preliminary Draft Law of the Law Modifying Military Criminal Justice; the Preliminary Draft Law on Mediation and Conciliation; the Preliminary Draft Law Amending Legal Assistance; the Preliminary Draft Law on the Judicial Support Centre; the Preliminary Draft Law on Law Firms; and the Preliminary Draft of the Decree to Amend the Organization of Judicial Secretaries.

191. With the same objective, some laws are in the preparation phase, including: the Law on the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and on the Status of Magistrates in the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney; the draft of the revision of the Chief Prosecutor Act; the Status of the Ombudsman and the High Authority Against Corruption; the Criminal Code; the Civil Code; the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure; the Civil Registry and Notary Office Codes; the Labour Process Code; the Regulations of the complementary bodies for the implementation of Law No. 9/96 of April 19, on the Judgment of Minors; the draft revision of Law No. 14/91 – The Association and NGO Act; and the proposed Preliminary Draft Law on Domestic and Intra-family Violence.

4. National minimum wage

192. Decree No. 79/06 of 27 October 2006 adjusts the national minimum wage and sets it in an amount of national currency (kwanzas, Kz) equal to US\$ 82 (82 United States dollars), effective in October 2006, on the basis of expected inflation, coinciding with the adjustment of wages in the civil service, while keeping the performance of the economy in mind.

193. The adjustment aims to protect less skilled workers, primarily those who have less bargaining power. The adjustment has been made four times in the last three years based on the trend in the inflation forecast.

194. A specialized technical group was created specifically and is studying trends in the national minimum wage in order to provide technical support to the National Social Dialogue Council, created in 2002, which is in charge of preparing concrete proposals in this area.

H. Health

195. In Angola there is Law No. 21-B/92, the Framework Law on the National Health System, which establishes the general points of the National Health Policy, which aims to promote health and to prevent the diseases that are priorities for State activities. It guarantees fairness in the distribution of resources, the use of services, access to health care, the promotion of equality among the citizens with no type of discrimination, and the establishment of special measures for childhood, maternity, old-age and disabilities.

196. The law further provides for the rational management of available resources, having the sector support the delivery of health services, furthering the participation of individuals and the organized community in determining health policies and planning, incentives for education for health to avoid behaviours that are harmful to public and individual health, fostering the formation of frameworks in the area of health, and private research on traditional medicine.

197. The Government has an advisory body, the National Health Commission. Its role is to regulate, orient, plan, assess, inspect and represent interests in the operation of entities that provide health care. The Commission consists of representatives of health care users, health care workers, governmental departments involved in related activities, and other entities.

1. Access to health services

198. The extended situation of armed conflict destroyed most of the basic health infrastructure and caused it to deteriorate. It caused the national health system to become fragmented, as well as weaknesses in human, material and financial resources. It created serious problems for the people in accessing health services, and this fact caused the government to invest in the health sector, with 95 per cent of the financing, primarily using the facility from China and Europe, in order to recoup and raise capacities in all areas. Equally important was, and continues to be, the emergence of new health structures and services in the private sector, whose contribution is of paramount importance.

199. In 2006 the Government began to carry out major projects for grouped purchases of hospital equipment and to build infrastructure. The results created 13 municipal hospitals with a capacity of 90 beds, nine health centres with a capacity of 30 beds and the renovation of four regional hospitals, two sanatoriums and two psychiatric hospitals in that period.

200. The expanded health network made it necessary to increase the number of technical health care workers by 14,071 new workers in the national health system; this improved the people's access to health services.

2. Overall State health policies

201. In order to deal with a less favourable situation, the Government is carrying out reforms and adopting policy measures that are being implemented through specific programmes. With the reforms in progress, directed and controlled interventions have been implemented in every component of the national health services. Interventions have been planned, budgeted, managed, supported and evaluated. The effectiveness of the public health programme strategic and operational plans have made it possible to support and evaluate the services.

202. Likewise, in 2006 the health sector began to offer technical assistance to all the provincial systems in terms of planning and budgeting for preparing credible action plans that identify the problems and propose solutions in a defined strategy framework.

203. National measles immunization campaigns were conducted in 2003 and 7.3 million children between 9 and 14 years old (96 per cent) were immunized. Vitamin A was administered to 2.3 million children from 9 months to four years old, for 77 per cent coverage. Consequently, the number of cases reported dropped from 10,473 in 2002 (January/November) to just 1,182 in 2003. As a result of the recent intensification of immunization, children are no longer dying of measles (responsible for 3 per cent of mortality in children less than 5 years old).

204. Polio eradication: in the same year, the Government held two National Polio Immunization Days (DNVP), covering 4.8 million children under age 5, with over 90 per cent coverage of the target group in 16 provinces of the country, and over 75 per cent in the other provinces. In 2004, five million children under 5 years old were immunized and approximately four million received Vitamin A supplements.

205. The National “Long Live Healthy Lives” Campaign was carried out in 2006, with many interventions.

206. Routine immunization was carried out through a plan to accelerate routine immunization and eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

207. The National Malaria Programme was implemented by the Government in 2003. Over 500,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) were distributed with malaria treatment kits in 16 provinces.

208. The Food Security Programme was carried out in the context of increasing the productivity of arable land, with the provision of means of production for rural families.

209. Malnutrition control consists of the Nutritional Vigilance System and, through the community, of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF).

210. The Strategic Plan for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal-Child Mortality is being carried out in the context of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

211. The policies that are being carried out in the context of a National Reproductive Health Strategy, which provides: assistance to obstetric patients with support before, during and after childbirth; reproductive health for teenagers.

212. Regarding HIV/AIDS, the study of the HIV infection rate, and of syphilis and hepatitis B rates among pregnant women in prenatal consultation, conducted in the country in 2004³⁰ found that the prevalence of HIV infection among pregnant women in prenatal consultation is 2.8 per cent, with a value between 0.8 and 9.1 per cent, and a prevalence for Angola of 3.9 per cent. Although the estimated HIV prevalence rate is relatively low, the extremely limited knowledge and dominant attitudes about HIV/AIDS are the principal factors that contribute to increasing the projected prevalence rate in the coming years. This led the Government to enact Law No. 8/04 of 1 November and to adopt programmes to strengthen information, education and communication projects, prevent transmission; to support diagnosis and make drugs available for treatment; to lower the individual and social impact; and to strengthen the epidemiological vigilance system.

213. The Government has been implementing the National Strategic Plans for HIV/AIDS since 2002 to combat the spread of the disease.

214. The Rapid Action, Analysis and Evaluation Programme (RAAAP) is one of the main complementary projects that emerged in 2006 in the context of cooperation and partnerships between the Government, United Nations agencies and other civil society institutions to establish a basis and guidelines to fight the impact of HIV/AIDS.

215. In cooperation with its social partners, the Government has redoubled efforts to increase: access to drinking water for 48 per cent of families in rural areas and 76 per cent in urban areas; safe waste disposal means for 32 per cent of families in rural areas and 79 per cent in urban areas. An integrated approach for the water and sanitation sector was carried out in the context of a logical framework to be included in the national water system. In the urban areas in some cities, water supply and sanitation systems were rehabilitated and built with 76 per cent coverage in 2006, and in the rural environment, the finalization of project implementation was scheduled in the provinces of Bié, Huambo, Benguela, Uíge and Huíla, where there are 62,000 new users of drinking water supply services that are beneficiaries, for a total of 1.2 per cent of the rural population, which lowers the gap by 2.5 per cent compared to the MDGs.

I. Education

216. Activities in the education sector are carried out to promote an improvement in the quality and supply of services which, despite the efforts made by the Government, revealed the necessity of continuing to carry out programmes to meet the growing demand.

1. Access to education

217. In 2006 the State administration expanded into nearly all of the national territory. As a result, the expansion of educational services enabled the educational system to accommodate 4,672,625 students as follows: 807,243 in kindergarten; 3,370,079 in primary education; 427,197 in secondary education (first and second cycles); 12,677 in special education; and 55,429 in

³⁰ Study of HIV Seroprevalence, Syphilis and Hepatitis B among Pregnant Women in Prenatal Consultation, Angola 2004, WHO/UNAIDS.

higher education. The fact that there are more young people and that there is an urban concentration of the population had an impact on the education sector in 2006 in that it expanded the potential base of social demand for education, particularly in the major urban centres.

218. Regardless, the performance of the education sector in 2006 in general was characterized by dynamic growth, except for kindergarten, with a nearly 10 per cent decrease. In primary education the growth rate was about 8 per cent, primarily due to the 35 per cent growth rate in the inland provinces and 6.6 per cent in the coastal provinces.

219. Consequently, the crude enrolment rate at the kindergarten level was down from 192.5 per cent in 2005 to 164 per cent in 2006, versus the projected figure of 115.7 per cent. In primary education, the rate dipped from 182 to 129 per cent versus the projected figure of 130.9 per cent. At the higher levels the crude rate was up by 2 per cent, at 45 per cent, versus the projected rate of 34 per cent; the crude rate for higher education rose from 3.4 to 3.9 per cent, versus the projected figure of 2.5 per cent. These indicators show that, in large part, children are being educated in the first four grades.

220. There was positive growth in special education, both qualitatively and quantitatively, resulting in a total of 12,677 students in 2006 at every level of education, including higher education.

2. Family and schooling

221. In carrying out the many activities in the education sector, the Government has important social partnerships that emphasize the active participation of families in building schools using local materials through programmes and projects carried out by various social players.

222. This important experience is based on the commitment of the parents and other families to educate their children and to become involved in school management through the Commissions of Parents and Education Officials, which makes a significant contribution to the success of the system's programmes. This partnership is even larger and stronger in rural localities where the residents go to the school and the teacher has instruments that are extremely important for the future of their children who are treated with kindness and in a caring manner, both in terms of building maintenance and in terms of acceptance and sound relations with the teacher. This rich experience extends throughout the country and protects the State which publicly endorses human development and respect for human rights as aspects that include results profiles in the national curricula with social coexistence as a fundamental basis.

3. Overall State policies for education

223. Measures have been adopted to correct the poor level of performance of the educational system. These measures include: enlarging the network of schools to increase the enrolment rate; training professors in new methodologies and participatory techniques to lower repetition rates; lowering the teacher-student ratio; equipping classrooms with furnishings and educational materials; distributing student textbooks free of charge at the national level; implementing the free school meal project; and raising the awareness of parents and school officials of the importance of schooling and education for girls.

224. To deal with the worrying situation, the Government is implementing, in harmony with Law No. 13/01 of December 31 (Framework Law on the Education System), an educational reform; this began in 2003 and, from 2004, extended the four years of primary education to six years in an effort to ensure quality education in the country. It also introduced a series of programmes in the area of sector policies and programmes to strengthen education, with emphasis on: the identification, training and hiring of educators; curricula for elementary learning; rehabilitation and implementation of physical infrastructures; provision of school materials; decreasing disparities in geographical equality; building management, planning and supervisory capacities; resource mobilization; and investment in human capital for rehabilitation and social reinsertion.

225. This unified primary education system, consisting of six grades, is free and mandatory according to the provisions of articles 7 and 8 in aforementioned Law 13/01 of December 31, which reflects the harmonized perspective of human rights established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined in the treaties on human rights and in our domestic law-Constitutional Law (arts. 31 and 49).

J. Role of the reporting process in promoting human rights at the national level

226. The country adopted the new methodology for preparing reports on the implementation of human rights treaties, and the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Angola organized training in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Senior officials from various agencies and bodies of the State and the Government participated, namely the Office of the Chief Prosecutor, the National Assembly, the Ministries and National Children's Institute, as well as civil society, and with the assistance of international experts working with the treaty bodies in Geneva.

227. The report preparation process was led by a team that agreed to call itself the "Intersectoral Committee for the Preparation of the Common Core Report on the Implementation of International Human Rights Treaties," coordinated by MIREX. The Committee includes representatives from the following institutions of the State, the government, and civil society: MIREX; PGR; MINARS; MINFAMU; MINJUS; INAC; MININT; NA; MED; MINUA; MAT; MAPESS; INE; FONGA; EDH; ISCED; CICA; CEJPM; PASUCA; JUBILEU 2000; NCC; Rede Mulher; and OAA.

228. The Intersectoral Committee organized and carried out its activities, primarily: internal organization, with three subcommittees according to activity phase; meetings for dialogue and preparation of the activity programme and budget; the questionnaire to collect information on the implementation of the treaties in question; provincial workshops on the report-preparation process, which involved representatives of the State and the government at the provincial and municipal level, civil society and traditional authorities; organizing thematic groups and routine meetings of these groups to process data collected at the central and provincial levels; creating a drafting group that wrote the initial text of the report; and commission meetings for sharing information.

229. The process enjoyed the unfailing support of the provincial governments. With the cooperation of the Provincial Human Rights Committees, they coordinated the information and data collection process at that level.

230. The Office of the Ombudsman was created recently, so that it did not participate actively in the process; it merely provided data on its work.

231. One aspect that was extremely important, both in terms of active participation by the Commission's activities and in terms of passive participation by supplying data, was the involvement of the non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups, namely Churches, professional organizations and others.

232. The participation of vulnerable groups of the population was ensured in the process by the institutions that represent them, namely: the Ministry of the Family and Women's Empowerment and the Women's Network for matters related to women; the National Children's Institute for matters related to children; and the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reinsertion for matters related to the elderly, refugees, dislocated people, the disabled and other groups.

233. The public social communication entities (radio, television and newspapers), played a predominant role in supporting and disseminating the Commission's activities, primarily about the seminars, as well as in the area of disseminating human rights and awareness through society's participation.

ANNEXES

Annex I

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Annex II

List of civil-society thematic networks and organizations

ANASO; Plataforma Eleitoral; Rede eleitoral; Rede Terra; Associação de Mulheres Juristas; Conselho de Igrejas Cristãs de Angola (CICA); Comissão Episcopal de Angola e Sdo Tome (CEAST); Comissão Inter-Eclesiástico para Paz em Angola (COIEPA); Sindicato "União Nacional dos Trabalhadores Angolanos" (UNTA, CG-SILA); Sindicato dos jornalistas; Sindicato dos Professores (SINPROF); Ordem dos Profissionais, Redes e Plataformas; Rede Mulher; Rede das Mulheres Parlamentares; Associação dos Amigos e Naturais do Marçal (Ana Marça!); Associação de Amizade e Solidariedade para com a Terceira Idade (AASTI); Associação Angolana de Enquadramento a Terceira Idade (ASAETI); Liga Nacional de Apoio aos Lares de Internamento em África (Linália); Associação dos Idosos Carentes e Desamparados de Angola.; Associação Nacional dos Deficientes de Angola (ANDA); Liga Angolana dos Deficientes Físicos (LARDEF); Associação dos Mutilados e Militares de Guerra de Angola (AMMIGA); Federação Angolana das Associações (FAPED); Associação de Cultura Para Pessoas Portadoras de Deficiência (LICULDA); Serviço das Pessoas Portadoras de Deficiências Físicas (EL-SHADAI); Associação Nacional de Apoio aos Deficientes Visuais (ANADV); Comité de Reconhecimento de Direito de Asilo (COREDA); Outros como JRS, DW, Flor da Vida; Fundação de Assistência Médica Internacional (AMI); Fundação Cear – Conselho de Apoio aos Refugiados; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES); Fundação Open Society Angola (FOS/A); Feed The Children (FTC); Fundação Yme (F-YME); Fundação Americana de Desenvolvimento (ADF); Fundação Afonso Serrdo (FASE); Fundação Brilhante (FB); Fundação Kitoko (FK); Fundação Santa Barbara (FSB); Fundação Eduardo dos Santos (FESA); Fundação Ajuda e Desenvolvimento (FAD); Fundação Apoio aos Órros de Guerra de Angola (FAOGA); Fundação Madre Teresa de Calecutá (FMTC); Fundação Nacional para a Democracia (FND); Fundação Messiânica de Apoio Recuperação e Resgate (FMARCD); Fundação Massakala (FM); Fundação Angolana de Solidariedade Social e Desenvolvimento (FUNDANGA); Fundação Cristã Nutris (FUNUC); Fundação Publicano (FUPEL); Assembleia de Deus Pentecostal (ADP); Ajuda da Igreja Norueguesa (AIN); Convenção Baptista de Angola (CBA); Igreja Baptista Livre em Angola (IBLA); Igreja da Comunidade Menonita em Angola (TECA); Igreja Evangélica Luterana de Angola (ZELA); Igreja Evangélica os Irmãos em Angola (LEIA); Igreja Evangélica Unida Comunhão Anglicana em Angola (IEU-CAA); Igreja Maná de Angola (IMA); Igreja Nova Apostólica de Angola (INNA); Obra Divina Providencial (ODP); União Evangélica Baptista em Angola (UEBA); União das Igrejas Evangélicas de Angola (UIEA)

Annex III

Representation of women in decision-making bodies

Table 1

Comparison table: Ministers and deputies

Ministers		Vice ministers		Deputies	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
93.44%	6.66%	76%	24%	87.73	12.27

Table 2

Comparison table: Senior Officials in the Political Party Committees)

Party in power		Principal opposition party	
Men	Women	Men	Women
99%	1%	78%	22%

Table 3

Comparison table: Members of the Political Party Central Committees

Party in power		Principal opposition party	
Men	Women	Men	Women
72.6%	24.7%	69%	31%

Table 4

Comparison table: Traditional Authorities

Men	Women
41 965	347
Great chiefs (Governors)	15
Chiefs	44
Advisors	208
Assistants to great chiefs (Governors)	15
Assistant chiefs	65
