



Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY  
HE AMBASSADOR JOÃO GIMOLIECA,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ECOSOC  
PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

*“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while  
advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development”*

**New York, February 02, 2022**

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

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**H.E. MR. COLLEN KELAPILE, PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC;**

**H.E. MS. AMINA MOHAMMED, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL;**

**EXCELLENCIES;**

**DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;**

1. As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear today that it is a crisis of monumental proportions, with catastrophic effects on people's lives and livelihoods, as well as in the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Historically, pandemics have served as catalysts for political, economic, and social change.
3. The year 2022 will be a decisive year for States on the ability to make the necessary changes to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, in the decade of action.
4. The current international crisis, according to the World Bank, represents a delay in the progress made in the last five years on combating poverty and food security in the world associated with other phenomena such as climate change, 82% of the new poor will be concentrated in the least developed countries (LDCS).

5. The crisis factor has overshadowed the achievement of the proposed SDG targets and the fulfilment of Agenda 2030, as states are forced into greater budgetary control, which is done through expenditure, affecting key areas, with a particular focus on social ones.

## **EXCELLENCIES;**

## **DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;**

6. The Republic of Angola, like other states, has been severely affected by the pandemic crisis, mainly due to the fall in oil prices on international financial markets and the conditioning of domestic productive activity, whereas measures to contain the pandemic have had a direct effect on the profitability and supply of businesses, with the potential to increase unemployment on a large scale.
7. The COVID-19 pandemic is a major disruptive factor, the effects of which on all SDG targets has been will be felt abruptly and at some length, increasing the risk of setbacks in progress already made and the failure of planned and targeted progress, globally.
8. At the moment, the Republic of Angola has three enormous, short- and medium-term challenges for the implementation of the Sdgs:
  - (i) to keep the economy under control, in particular to maintain the balance of tax accounts, external accounts and the stability of national currency purchasing power, while supporting economic recovery and the development of the private sector, and the implementation of social programmes to combat poverty and unemployment, exacerbated by the economic and health crises of COVID-19, and by climate change.

- (ii) Print an acceleration to their efforts of economic diversification, reduce their structural vulnerability, recognized in the request to postpone their graduation from Least Developed Country (PMA) to February 2024, resolution A/RES/75/259\_E. AND;
- (iii) Improve the quality of education and professional skills of young people, as well as technology transfer, in order to promote more sustainable, resilient development and contributing to economic diversification.

## **EXCELLENCIES;**

## **DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;**

9. In July 2021, the Republic of Angola reiterated, with the presentation of its first National Voluntary Report (NVR), its international commitment to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Long-Term Strategy for Angola on Horizon 2050.
10. The Angolan government, through the 2018-2022 National Development Plan, responded to the SDGs in an integrated way, identifying its priority areas for relations with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Given the interconnected and indivisible character of the SDGs they are present in multiple areas of the NDP.
11. *"Leave no one behind"*, is present in the Angolan National Development Plan, namely in gender equality and with the creation of better conditions for all Angolans.

12. The main good practices and lessons learned refer to the development and implementation of comprehensive programmes in the economic areas (**PRODESI**), local development program (**PIIM**) and social protection/monetary transfers (**Kwenda and Child Value**). Gender equality policy and institutions have also shown that the country is capable of continuing to improve the basis for greater gender equality on a sustained basis.

### **EXCELLENCIES;**

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13. The main emerging challenge is the impact that COVID-19 will undoubtedly bring to the national economy, especially for the most vulnerable and dependent on the informal economy.

14. On the other hand, the pandemic also has very significant impacts on the country's health systems, infrastructure, and conditions, requiring additional efforts to improve it.

15. In the economic area, Angola faces major challenges in reducing oil dependency, diversification and increasing employment, especially for young people and the population dependent on the informal economy. There is still a need to extend basic services, in particular access to quality health and education, water supply, energy and sanitation infrastructures, and the development of sustainable cities.

16. In August 2022, Angola will enter the electoral process and the government will prepare an assessment on the implementation of the 2018-2022 NDP and

analyze the state of progress of the SDG, which will allow the next NDP 2023-2027 allocate the necessary instruments for the further implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

17. To conclude, the challenges are still enormous, but the next decade will be decisive in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**I THANK YOU!**