



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
H.E. MARIO AUGUSTO CAETANO JOAO,
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING
AT THE 2023 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

New York, 31of January 2023

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EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

We welcome the convening the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, especially at this time when the world is facing difficult social and economic challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the outbreak of a military conflict in Europe affected every single economy around the world, imposing different access conditions to food, fertilizers or energy. This led to rising prices of goods and services, as well as a substantial reduction in international trade transactions. But the impact was not the same across countries, as countries' resilience and policy choices made a difference.

According to the World Bank's 2022 flagship report on Poverty and Shared Prosperity, these challenges triggered the largest setback since World War II. This

sends the world even further off track on the goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

So we all must

make the necessary adjustments to stay on course to meet the SDGs by 2030.

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The Republic of Angola, like other states, was severely affected by the pandemic crisis, especially on businesses and increasing unemployment on a large scale.

With these setbacks, the Republic of Angola has three challenges to maintain the pace in the implementation of the SDGs, namely:

- (i) to keep the economy humming by preserving the macroeconomic stability to restore and create new jobs;
- (ii) to accelerate efforts on economic diversification and reduce country's structural vulnerabilities; and
- to
- (iii) improve the quantity and quality of education and professional skills of the young population .

In July 2021, the Republic of Angola presented its first National Voluntary Report (VNR), its international commitment to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The Republic of Angola is now in an important crossroad to set the priorities for the next National Development Plan 2023-2027 with a subtheme "sustainable social, economic and environmental impact". This new NDP is set to be an integrated and disruptive response to the SDGs based on three development pillars, namely:

- (i) human capital (with education at the forefront);
- (ii) infrastructure; and
- (iii) economic diversification (with agribusiness and tourism at the forefront).

Angola is changing its development paradigm, seeking for solid partnerships with the private sector and civil society, as well as international development partners to implement the national development plan. This is a true recognition of the importance of the SDG 17

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Angola is growing. We broke with the 5-year cycle of economic recession and, in 2021, Angola's GDP grew by 0.7% and in 2022 we expect to have grown by around 3%. But growing is not developing. We have to guarantee the inclusion of this growth so that no family, which is the core of Angolan society, is left behind.

With all the setbacks both from the 5-year economic recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, our economy is back where it was in 2012, but with a larger population, eroding equitable income distribution and most of the social indicators.

There is an ultimate need to strengthen public institutions to be able to supply the population with basic services, in particular access to quality education and health, water and energy, sanitation, infrastructures, and guarantee the development of sustainable cities.

To conclude, the challenges are still enormous, but we are confident that being in the right direction and pace can also be the goal.

I THANK YOU!