



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY
JOÃO BAPTISTA BORGES
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND WATER**

UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

New York March 22-24, 2023



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**STATEMENT FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF
ENERGY AND WATERS**

WATER CONFERENCE – New York, March 22-24, 2023

Hon. Heads of State and Government; Your Excellency

the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Distinguished Members of the Member State Delegations;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

First, I would like to greet you on behalf of His Excellency, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, on the occasion of this United Nations Water Conference, which takes place at a very particular time of climate changes at a global level.

This is an event of transcendent importance for present and future generations, when all Member States of the United Nations debate themes related to the importance of water and we celebrate World Water Day with this year's main theme of **"Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis."**

The Republic of Angola, as a Member State of the United Nations and signatory of various international legal instruments, is not a stranger to the challenges of water, its protection, value, and sustainable use,

under the various international commitments, namely, the United Nations Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals.

To face the challenges of water, the structure of the Republic of Angola's Executive Branch includes the specialized Ministry of Energy and Waters, which advises the President of the Republic on and is responsible for policies pertaining to water in its environmental, economic, and social dimensions, as well as the National Water Council, which serves as a consultative body for the President of the Republic and ensures coordination and articulation among all Ministerial Departments and other public and private actors, including rural communities, in the process of planning, managing, and using water resources in the context of Angola's river basins and those shared with other States, in order to equitably and rationally manage this important national resource among different users from the perspectives of justice, intergenerational balance, and international harmony.

Your Excellencies;

Ladies and gentlemen;

United Nations General Assembly **Resolution No. 64/292, of June 28, 2010**, considered access to potable water and basic sanitation as a fundamental human right.

In this regard, the Republic of Angola has developed a set of actions of different dimensions, namely at the constitutional and infraconstitutional level; institutional development and strengthening; investments in water distribution infrastructure; creating and funding public water and sanitation companies; economic and tariff regulation.

The right of access to potable water and sanitation is recognized in our constitution, as part of the right to quality of life under Article 85 of

the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, and water is established as a resource under the Public Domain of the State in Article 95.

The Republic of Angola, in order to effectively establish its objectives and goals with respect to water, has, as our primary planning tool, the National Water Plan, which is in effect until 2040 and has a comprehensive vision for various actions to be pursued in the short, medium, and long term, in the legal, institutional, technical, financial, and infrastructure arenas, in order to ensure their sustainable management as well as access and benefits for the entire population.

The volume of investments in the water sector reached, in the 2017-2022 period, a total of USD 1.937 billion, with an average rate of access of 60% for urban and rural populations, considering a total population of 30 million.

Your Excellencies;

Ladies and gentlemen;

I would like to stress that the Angolan State continues to make its best efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6) by significantly increasing our investments.

For the five-year period of 2023-2027, the investments to be made in water supply will exceed USD 4 billion, with the implementation of new collection, treatment, and distribution systems that will increase the availability of water in our country by 1,149 m³/day, particularly in Luanda, and the connection of 1.6 million families to the network.

These financial efforts will allow us to increase the current per capita consumption of 40 liters/person/day to 70, and thus make progress toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Despite the abundance of water resources in Angola, there are regions in the South that are cyclically affected by prolonged droughts, which spur migratory waves of people and herds, causing

high human and material sacrifices.

As this situation has persisted over many decades, the Government recently decided to develop an action program that consists of building canals and connections among basins, as well as dams with reservoirs to store rainwater, and rehabilitating dozens of reservoirs in the provinces of Cunene, Namibe, and Huíla.

This program, with a USD 4.5 billion budget, began in the province of Cunene, with the completion of the CAFU Canal, which captures water from the Cunene River and distributes it through 165 km of open-air canals, potentially benefiting more than 250,000 people and more than 300,000 animals, in addition to irrigating the soil along its path.

The Government of Angola has the support, in this effort to develop water supply capacity, from multilateral credit entities and agencies such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency, with which we have been developing, since 2018, the Institutional Development Program for the Water Sector, also known as PDISA, which has already entered its Phase II, with visible results, both in infrastructure or the rehabilitation and expansion of municipal water systems, with laboratories built to assess water quality, and institutionally, with the establishment and capacity-building of 17 provincial water companies, which will manage the assets under construction and ensure acceptable levels of service quality for the populations they serve.

During the second phase of PDISA, we are including in the investment agenda wastewater systems in the country's main coastal cities, with studies underway to improve sanitary conditions for the population and combat water-borne diseases.

Your Excellencies;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Angola also ascribes a high importance to share water resources and has joined in the commitments established under the SADC Protocol on water and is a member of the 5 international management commissions that manage the Cunene, Cuvelai, Cubango or Okavango, Zambeze, and Congo-Oubangui-Sangha river basins.

The establishment and administration of these commissions are based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, as well as the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses, in order to ensure harmonious and transparent management of shared river resources.

Thank you very much for your attention.