

Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THIRTEEN SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Your Excellencies Ministers-in-Charge of Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs,
Directors of the Executive Organs of the United Nations Sustainable Development Committee,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen, .

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77.

It is with great honour and satisfaction to participate in the thirteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development under its new thematic format and in particular on the pertinent themes of water, sanitation and human settlements, given their priority in Angola's development programs.

Please allow me, Mr. President, to refer to certain aspects I deem crucial and that are related to the current status of sustainable development in my country.

A 1996 study concluded that only 33% of the Angolan population had access to potable water, and that only 22% had access to adequate sanitation services. This study also concluded that coverage reached 50% in urban areas, and only 15% in rural areas. In spite of Angola's rich and diverse hydrographic network, sanitation services remain precarious throughout the country; sewer systems cover merely 17% of the population in 4 out of 18 provinces.

These circumstances have a direct bearing in current high infant mortality rates as well as other human development related indicators in Angola. With regards to human settlements, the recent years have been marked by the resettlement of populations displaced by the armed conflict. Approximately 3.8 million people were displaced by the armed conflict. While some remained in refugee camps and benefited directly from government and international community assistance, most followed a pattern of urban migration establishing themselves in precarious slums lacking the infrastructure to allow any intervention and often environmentally inhospitable for human settlement.

Mr. Chairman,

My government is dedicated to translating the recently arrived peace into meaningful improvements in the lives of 14 millions inhabitants and continuing its path on the road for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Thus specific program such as our Poverty Eradication Strategy; Water Sector Development Strategy; Pilot Water and Sanitation Provision Plans for the Provinces of Angola; Child Education and Instruction Upgrade Program; Social and Productive Reintegration Program; Special Program for the promotion of Health and Primary Health Care; National Environmental

Education and Awareness Program; and the National Environmental Management Program are being implemented.

In fulfilling its obligations on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, my Government promulgated its Environmental and Water laws as well as approved an environmental awareness program. Furthermore, we are making efforts towards the elaboration of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my government's gratitude for the support from the International Community in the elaboration of the National Environmental Management Plan, the National Biodiversity Protection and Conservation Strategy and Program, the National Action on Desertification Program, and the gradual elimination of substances that have a negative impact on the ozone layer.

These reflect my Government's commitment to achieving the agreed development goals and the targets arduously negotiated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. As they relate to human settlements, my government supports the alignment of its targets with those corresponding to water and sanitation given its fundamental nature and multiplier effect in development indicators.

Mr. Chairman,

The Commission on Sustainable Development is mandated by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to follow-up its implementation. We are certain that the Thirteenth Session will adopt policy recommendations and decisions that will expedite the implementation of the targets for Water, Sanitation and human Settlements. A key to achieving these targets is the reaffirmation of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities that guided us in Johannesburg. There, we committed ourselves to building a humane, equitable and caring global society, cognizant of the need for human dignity for all.

National strategies and initiatives in developing countries must be accompanied by actions from developed countries as well as from international organizations based upon nationally owned needs assessments exercises.

In Angola, supportive coordinated and cohesive actions on the part of international partners must recognize that 30 years of conflict created enormous challenges that cannot be tackled by domestic resource mobilization alone. International support for the continued consolidation of peace in Angola involves an intensified partnership for financing technical and institutional cooperation, and human and institutional capacity-building consistent with the nationally owned Poverty Reduction Strategy; promoting the transfer and diffusion of technology; and supporting the productivity, diversity and

competitiveness of the economy through a combination of financial and technological support for the rehabilitation and development of social and economic infrastructure.

Thank you.