One of the grave problems afflicting humanity is violence, which is among the primary causes of death. Gender-based violence, a global issue affecting women of all ages, education backgrounds, social classes, races, ethnicities and sexual orientation, has harmful effects on broader humanity, as it represents a violation of human rights and the citizens' rights of women and girls.

In this regard we would like to inform that the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, Chapter II(II), under the sections "Fundamental Rights, Liberties and Assurances", establishes the "Right to life", the "Right to personal integrity", and the "Prohibition of the death penalty" under articles 30, 31 and 59 respectively. Also articles 22 and 23 establishes that all Angolan citizens are equal.

- Family and Women Empowerment Ministry (MINFAMU)

Because gender violence is an issue needing to be addressed on a cross-sector basis, the Angolan Government has sought to involve the various stakeholders across society.

MINFAMU, is the government body responsible for gender issues. It has undertaken efforts to pass and ensure the effective implementation of related policy, working in collaboration with a number of anti-violence stakeholders across the country. An example is the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity, a cross-ministry guidance instrument requiring state, private and civil society institutions to observe its gender-related principles in preparing development programs, plans and projects. The implementation of this policy and its strategy requires a concerted effort involving the different stakeholders and sectors described above, the creation of coordination mechanisms to ensure its effectiveness and, importantly, the commitment of all stakeholders and sectors of society.

Other initiatives of the MINFAMU relating to measures against gender-based violence include the passage of Act 25/11 of 14 July against Domestic Violence, Presidential Decree 26/13 of 8 May approving the Executive Plan against Domestic Violence, Presidential Decree 124/13 of 28 August approving regulations on the Act against Domestic Violence, Act 22/12 of 14 August, the Act on the Organisation of the Attorney-General's Office and Public Prosecutors' Office, and the Family Code, all of which are part of the response measures taken to mitigate this scourge.

- Ministry of Education (MINED)

Addressing certain issues of concern to the Ministry of Education, namely the gender disparities still remaining in the academic setting, the lack of priority given to engaging female
teachers in training and/or skills building programs, the small number of female teachers in management positions, the increasing number of ill-timed pregnancies and especially the growing rates of truancy and grade repetition among schoolgirls, the "National Gender Program" has been running within the educational system since 1990, and has been undergoing reform since 2012 for conformity to the "Executive Plan against Domestic Violence". The Ministry of Education is also a member of the Cross-Ministry Technical Committee for implementation of the Executive Plan against Domestic Violence.

In this vein, and regarding the measures taken against gender-based violence, the Ministry of Education plans to:

1. Revive the Gender and HIV/AIDS Clubs in schools
2. Revive the Psychopedagogical Support Offices catering to students who are victims of domestic violence, forced labour, orphanhood and ill-timed pregnancy
3. Provide training on measures to combat gender-based violence to teachers, managers and technicians at Provincial Education Offices (DPE) and Municipal Education Departments (RME)
4. Include the subject of gender issues in teachers’ training curricula

- Ministry of Fisheries (MINPES)

The Ministry of Fisheries' contribution centres on artisan fishing, which employs a considerable number of women in the fishing industry. They have informed us that a total of 8,571 women are employed in fishing in the country's seven coastal provinces, including 287 in Cabinda, 542 in Zaire, 439 in Bengo, 3795 in Luanda, 1378 in South Kwanza, 1974 in Benguela and 156 in Namibe.

In artisan fishing, women are granted full equality with fishermen in terms of access to fishing equipment and positions of management in cooperatives managed by women or both men and women. Furthermore, a considerable number of women are presidents of artisan fishing cooperatives in Cabinda, Zaire, Bengo and Luanda and have established a range of community credit unions, with encouraging results.

As concerns the measures taken against gender-based violence, the Ministry of Fisheries highlights the "Women Fish Processor Support Program" running in the Buraco and Cabo Ledo fishing communities, which is financed by UNDP and benefits 156 women, including 62 in Buraco and 94 in Cabo Ledo. In addition, 2 training centres inaugurated and currently operating in these communities have provided professional training to 95 women to date, improving their work performance.

Social campaigns run by organisations backed by the Ministry of Fisheries have raised awareness and delivered seminars on combating violence against women and girls, as well as illiteracy in fishing communities. There are no known cases of gender-based violence in this sector.
Ministry of Interior/National Police

1-One of the primary measures taken by the General Command of the National Police (CGPN) against gender-based violence is preventive in nature. As a partner to other institutions dealing with this form of violence, it works to raise awareness and mobilise the National Police force against violence, as well as disseminate Act 25/11 of 14 July (on Domestic Violence).

This has included a range of campaigns at Luanda and cross-province police units, including lectures, seminars and training to provide the Force with the knowledge and skills required in situations of domestic violence, including gender-based violence.

2-Participation in public debates, including on television, radio and in national and international conferences. The General Command of the National Police/Ministry of the Interior, through the National Criminal Investigation Bureau (DNIC), have created a dedicated department for dealing with victims of this type of violence, and these debates are held with specialists in the field and used as an opportunity to publicise the services provided to the population and raise awareness on prevention and the need to report all cases of violence occurring in communities.

3-Counselling and psychological support for victims. This is another preventive measure taken by the General Command of the National Police/Ministry of the Interior to support, advise and help victims deal with cases of violence. The aim is to re-establish the victim’s emotional balance and ensure the conditions and individual and social welfare necessary to prevent the victim from becoming an aggressor.

2. The relevant punitive measures established in our legal system are found in Book II of the Criminal Code. Under articles 345 and following a penalty of 2 to 24 years of imprisonment is established for the crimes of exposure and abandonment of children, infanticide and homicide.

3.Criminal prosecution of aggressors. The department in question, which is decentralised into Provincial Criminal Investigation Offices (DPICs) and Criminal Investigation Departments covering each municipality in Luanda, compiles evidence for criminal proceedings, records all complaints filed by victims and initiates the relevant proceedings in court as promptly as possible. These are the law enforcement measures taken by the General Command of the National Police/Ministry of the Interior to assist the courts in administering justice against aggressors.

4.Participation in the implementation of the national executive plan. The General Command of the National Police/Ministry of the Interior is a member of the cross-ministry commission created by Presidential Decree 26/13 of 8 May to implement the national plan against domestic violence, which includes a range of measures, among which are those already described as strategies for reducing cases of gender-based violence.

Ministry of Public Administration and Labour.

With a view to ensuring that women and girls are granted the conditions necessary to exercise their citizens' rights and counter the adverse effects of violence on their personal and social development, the Ministry of Public Administration, Labour and Social Security, as a member
of the Cross-Ministry Human Rights Reporting Commission (CIERDH), has implemented gender-related policies including legislative and legal measures and employment programs.

Among the national laws and policies to combat all forms of gender-based violence is Act 2 of 11 February (General Labour Act), particularly article 34(2), article 164 and articles 268 to 208, as well as Decree 43 of 4 July on HIV/AIDS, Employment and Professional Training, Act 1/06 of 18 January (First Job Act) and Joint Executive Decree 172/10 of 14 December approving the List of Occupations Prohibited for Women.