Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the International Organizations in Vienna

VIENNA – AUSTRIA FROM 13 TO 14 MARCH/2014

Distinguished Delegates
Mr Chairman,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the 57th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Our congratulations are extended to the other Members of the Bureau, and to the Secretariat for the documentation available. I should like to assure you the total availability of my delegation for the success of our work.

The Angola Delegation associates itself with statements made on behalf of G77 and China and on behalf of the African Group in the opening of this session.
Mr Chairman,

The participation of the Republic of Angola in this High Level Event which celebrates the Mid-term Review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, is unequivocal proof of our commitment and willingness to continue working with the other Member States of the United Nations in the search for solutions to lead to the effective reduction in the supply of and demand for psychotropic substances.

The Republic of Angola considers that only broad convergence among the various States in terms of a harmonious approach across all strands can make a major contribution to combating the trafficking of drugs in our societies.

We know that it is a global problem, so we consider that the global plan to combat drugs must centralise prevention as a weapon of combat supported effectively by adequate means and resources.

So we must all reconcile the security policy for combating terrorism and transnational crime, with reference to the new paradigm of security of countries.
In the light of that reality, combating Trafficking and Drug Addiction has joined the list of priority areas of the responsibility of the Angolan Executive in the Governance Programme for the 2012-2017, five-year period.

The programme to combat drugs has been developed by the Executive, in partnership with the Inter-ministerial Committee for Combating Drugs, CILAD, and will be implemented by the National Institute for Combating Drugs, INALUD, and provides for the following measures:

1) Relaunch the drug use prevention policy;
2) Raise the awareness of society and young people in particular, about the socio-economic effects of drug use and drug addiction;
3) Combat drug use, especially by young people, cracking down on drug trafficking and money laundering, and improving the links between the various authorities at national and international level;
4) Associate the prevention, treatment at a specific Centre, risk reduction and minimisation of harm, and social reintegration, with a model based on the linking of the prevention system in the family, school and leisure environment, with institutions and civil society;
5) Develop a treatment model to integrate the new consumption needs and trends, and implementing a risk reduction policy to guarantee a decrease in illnesses associated with drug use, right for protecting public health and the safety of people and property;

6) Reinforce prevention, treatment, risk reduction and minimisation of harm in the prisons environment and guaranteeing the resources necessary for the implementation of initiatives to support the treatment and the social and professional reintegration of drug addicts;

7) Promote integrated combat of drug trafficking, implementing alternative measures to the completing of prison sentences, reviewing and adjusting fines, linking the agents of the system, clarifying the distinction between indications of use and indications of trafficking;

8) Ensure better informing of Angolan society about the drugs and drug addiction phenomenon, its evolution, and the dangers of the different drugs to human health;

9) Increase scientific research and the training of human resources in the area of drugs and drug addiction;

10) Create the mechanisms for financing of the national strategy for combating drugs, in the areas of prevention, research, training and suppression;
11) Implement operational mechanisms to combat the illicit trafficking of drugs by organs of Defence, Security and Internal Order.

Mr. Chairman

The problem of drugs, which affect all countries, undermines the democracy, the capacity of States to confront this scourge, the health of the people, and human rights.

Eradicating drugs through repression, we think, further aggravates this problem. We must find other models where social justice prevails. Without local intervention, without proximity action, hardly a strategy for the prevention of drug use, risk reduction and treatment, will be successful.

We want a policy which will act on the factors which lead to the appearance and development of deviant or addictive behaviour. A new social policy, especially preventive in relation to young people, involving education, employment, professional training, health, urban planning and family support. The reality of problems, associated with drugs, is generally the result of factors of social, economic or cultural exclusion. A new policy to promote in society in relation to the objectives to be attained, to discuss the risk reduction programmes from a perspective of public health, and to act in a balanced manner between control of supply and reduction of demand.
The Angolan Government is looking to the future having as its main target the promotion of a healthy life and free of drugs. For that purpose, without deviating from our strategy, we have been constantly improving our policies, our vigilance, our inspecting, and adapting it to the new manifestations of illicit narcotic drug trafficking, to the appearance of new drugs, especially the new synthetic drugs which predictably constitute the major threat in the coming decades.

This event, taking place now, represents an important moment for the agreeing of a **Global Strategy** in the fight against one of the biggest challenges of our time, drug trafficking, which persists in challenging the sovereignty of States, to present concrete actions for prevention, reducing of supply and demand, and social reintegration of users.

The Republic of Angola reaffirms here its total commitment to the effective implementation of the existing three international Drug Control Conventions and its dedication in continuing to adopt legislative, administrative and political measures in harmony with these instruments, so that together we may combat this world-wide scourge.

The Republic of Angola is steadfast in this fight...

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**