

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY ANGOLA AT THE 66th SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, Vienna, 13-17
March 2023**

Item Nº3 General Debate

Mr. President,

Allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you on your election and the excellent work done by you and the UNODC Secretariat in the preparation of this important event.

Angola aligns its intervention with the Group of 77 and China and the African Group, recognizing that the abusive use of drugs is a global concern that also needs a global response, mainly due to the negative socioeconomic impact that falls on families and our societies.

Mr. President,

Within the scope of combating and preventing drugs, the Angolan Government is working hard on an active prevention system that can meet the needs of primary health care, which are the great challenge of the public health system.

Angola built its prevention system based on the three major United Nations conventions on drug control, as well as their guidelines, the Angolan Government has strengthened its prevention system, which we all consider the cornerstone of this entire process. For it to be effective, we associate it with sociocultural aspects.

Prevention guarantees the dissemination of all the information necessary for raising awareness and changing the behavior of the

people. It is carried out in various ways, through lectures, seminars, workshops, and other didactic or pedagogical activities. These activities are very interactive and an effective vehicle for reducing the demand and supply of psychotropic substances among young people.

Drugs, as a global scourge, its prevention suggests that treatment should be uniform, inclusive and foster the gathering of synergies towards good practices and better results.

In isolation, it will not be possible to do so successfully, in this line of thought, internally we have as partners some institutions that associate with the government to share information for all, whether they are churches or other non-governmental organizations, they act as true partners of the Government.

Regarding the distribution or sale of medicines, access to pharmaceutical products is based on the existence of national policies regarding these products, such as prescription drugs and antibiotics.

The fight against drug trafficking has become a priority for national authorities. As part of their fight, they attribute to the customs authorities and to the Criminal Investigation Service competences to inspect ports, airports and maritime terminals, as well as, collection of customs duties, and other charges such as value added taxes due to importation, contributing to the improvement of the budget allocated to the fight against drugs.

Distinguished Colleagues,

When we approach topics related with drug seizure, with emphasis on the typology, main routes, modus operandi and the profile of the passengers, we realize that the profile of traffickers

changes behavior, which makes the police forces have a more proactive attitude in the its confrontation.

In another dimension, Angola considers international cooperation as a necessary argument, through which actions are implemented to reinforce police activities based on the collection of information, surveillance of land, sea and air transport.

It also allows providing information on detection and on financial flows. In this sense, Angola also cooperates with a series of international partners with a view to implementing these supply reduction policies among countries in the same geographical sub-region, with emphasis on the SADC region and the Great Lakes.

Lastly, allow me to address an affection word to all women this March and conclude that they are true heroes in the conservation of their families against this social phenomenon that affects mostly their young children, especially in the most needy families.

Thank you for your attention.