Her Excellency Madam President Ms Amina Oufroukhi of the Trafficking in Persons Working Group Committee

Distinguished Speakers and Delegates to the 10th Session of the Human Trafficking Working Group

Please receive our warmest greetings

First of all, I would like to congratulate the working group that made this event possible. Covid 19 has come to destabilize the world, mainly the economic and social situation of the populations and has further aggravated the state of vulnerability of potential victims of Human Trafficking and this provides and benefits traffickers who find their work easier because with the number of unemployment that this pandemic created by reducing the workforce and even the companies that went bankrupt.

Madam President

Angola created, through Presidential Order No. 235/14, of 02 December 2014, the Interministerial Commission against Trafficking in Human Beings, to guarantee the protection, assistance, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration within society, of victims Trafficking in Human Beings in Angola.

This Commission is coordinated by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights and assisted by the Minister for Social Action, Family and Women Promotion as deputy coordinator, integrating the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Youth and Sports, Health, Public Administration, Labor and Social Security, Territorial Administration and State Reform, the technical group that includes, in addition to the aforementioned, the Attorney General's Office, the National Police, the National Institute for Children and Youth.

The fight against the crime of trafficking has a Constitutional guarantee, article 60 Constitution of the Republic of Angola (CRA), which establishes the prohibition of the practice of heinous and violent crimes.

Angola, through National Assembly resolution 21/10 of 22 June, ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in force since 2003, and its three
additional protocols, such as: the Protocol on Prevention, Repression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons, in particular Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) against illegal trafficking in migrants by land, sea and air.

The Angolan Parliament passed law 3/14 against money laundering and trafficking which, in its article 19, provides for the crime of trafficking.

Law 13/19 of 23 May Legal Framework for Foreigners in Angola, in Articles 16 and 17, enshrines a series of measures such as the prohibition on the entry of unaccompanied minors by parents and / or without authorization and the requirement to documentary control at border posts to all foreign citizens who intend to enter or leave national territory, measures that help to combat Human Trafficking.

The law, in its article 56, also enshrines the granting of a Temporary Stay Visa as a subsidiary protection measure for humanitarian reasons in the case of victims of criminal offenses (as is the case of victims of TSH).

National Migration Policy through Presidential Decree No. 318/18 of 31 December. The new Penal Code, which outlines the legal and penal treatment of trafficking in persons, sexual conduct and the sexual trafficking of minors, as well as the associated conduct of kidnapping, abduction, hostage taking, slavery, threat, coercion, lenocinage, recourse to prostitution. Minors, Child Pornography, Criminal Association, among others.

Recently approved laws:

Law for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Defendants and their Families (Law No. 1/20 of 22 January)

Law on Organ Transplantation (Law No. 20/19 of 20 September)

Video Surveillance Law (Law No. 2/20 of 22 January)

Angola recently approved the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, by Presidential Decree No. 31/20 of 14 February 2020 and the National Human Rights Strategy (Presidential Decree No. 100/20, of 14 April).

In this context, the United Nations Office against Crime and Drugs (UNODC) launched the Blue Heart Campaign that Angola joined in July 2018, joining other countries in order to raise awareness about the problem and inspire those with decision-making power. to promote the necessary changes to end this crime.

Angola in the last two years was in the 2w position on observation in the report prepared Annually by the United States Department of America, and due to the Executive's effort it rose from classification to level 2 this year.

Angola has been working within the scope of the 4ps namely Prevention, Promotion, Prosecution of Actors and Partnership.
In Prevention, we have carried out various activities such as lectures, seminars and a round table on the topic of Trafficking in Persons in Primary, Secondary, University and Church Schools to prevent, alert and pay attention not to be fooled by traffickers.

Other activities:

The second training cycle for trainers at national level was held in February this year with the support of UNODC, where we had the presence of 50 participants, among them, Criminal Investigation Police, Border Guard Police, Prosecutors and Judges. Belonging to the cross-border provinces.

Angola has a very vast land border with the following countries: DRC, Zambia, Namibia and the Republic of Congo.

Humanly, it is not possible to watch the entire extension and we have reports that these spaces are constantly violated by migrants of various nationalities.

The Government has reinforced it and is creating financial conditions so that, as far as possible, apply the video surveillance system.

We are aware that Angola still has a long way to go to achieve the desired objectives in reducing or even eliminating this heinous crime.

For this purpose, we still face difficulties of various kinds such as:
• The difficulty of identifying victims of trafficking, the insufficient number of specialists to fight TSH at the level of the Criminal Investigation Police and Judges;
• Financial constraints;
• Protection of victims of trafficking as a shelter, training of social workers, among others.

Madam President,

One of the major problems is the falsification of documents by traffickers. Angola has about 100 cases of which more than 25 have already been tried pending trial, very recently police officers have been convicted of trafficking in persons.

In terms of activity, this year Angola is preparing the National Reference Mechanism to provide better assistance to victims of trafficking.

Due to the State of Emergency first and now the situation of Calamity that still prevails, which does not allow to carry out many activities due to the precaution of contamination of the covid-19, however, we held a cycle of lectures within the scope of the Blue Heart Campaign that gave - begins on July 1, addressed to Conservatives and Notaries; on the 8th with civil society organizations, on the 16th with Social Workers and Health Professionals and culminated on the 30th of July (International Day to Combat Human Trafficking) with the National Police and at the end the formation of the blue heart.
At the level of Africa we have the group of the Association of African Prosecutors who has denounced cooperation on the topic of Human Trafficking.

Finally, we would like to thank the existing partnership with: the European Union, SADC, IOM, UNDP, Embassies of Portugal, Holland and the United States of America in Angola.

Recommendation:

Greater interaction between countries at bilateral, multilateral and regional levels;
Exchange of experiences,

Thank you.