**SEMINAR**

"**The negative impacts of the non-repatriation of funds of**

**Illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights”**

8 February, 11h-13 and 15h-17h

Room XX/Hybrid

**STATEMENT OF ANGOLA**

**M. Chair,**

I thank you for convening this important and timely meeting. Angola aligns with the African Group Statement.

The repatriation of funds of illicit origin is very relevant for countries with Human Rights challenges associated with lack of sufficient funds to respond to their population’s overall needs, which has only been aggravated by the unprecedent impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is clear that this issue requires the utmost attention of the HRC as well as the support of the international community.In this regard, Angola welcomes the participation, as well as the engagement of **Madam High-Commissioner** throughout the implementation of Resolution 46/11.

The main objective of this initiative, **we think,** is to bridge and to address the current obstacles to the international asset recovery process and cooperation in order to secure funding for the realization of human rights and SDGs, especially in least developed countries.

The non-repatriation of those funds works against Government efforts to eradicate poverty, end hunger, secure quality health and education conditions, which are essential elements of inclusion and for the achievement of THE 2030 Agenda..

Angola believes that strengthening international cooperation in the fight against this situation and ensuring **an unconditional return of assets to their countries of origin**, in time and in accordance with national and international laws, has a huge potential to alleviate the financial burden of affected countries.

Angola, despite the many challenges, has taken firm steps in the area of asset recovery and our national experience shows that anything is possible when there is political determination and objectivity. In this spirit, Angola welcomes this meeting and hopes that new avenues will emerge in order to have more effective and efficient international cooperation in the service of the realization of Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

**I thank you M. Chair.**