



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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20 May 2020

Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Republic of Angola and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group in November 2019.

As the final outcome report on the review of Angola has been recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 43<sup>rd</sup> session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Angola – the Compilation of United Nations information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions – which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years, until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have considered the statements and/or recommendations made by 110 delegations and the presentation made and responses provided by the delegation of Angola. I have also considered the actions taken by the Government to implement the 192 recommendations supported during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues, which appear in the annex to this letter.

I take particular note of the ratification in 2019 of several important international instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II); the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

His Excellency  
Mr. Manuel Domingos Augusto  
Minister of External Relations  
Republic of Angola



I also note with appreciation the adoption in February 2020 of the National Human Rights Strategy 2019–2022 and the national plan to prevent and combat human trafficking. I would like to encourage Angola to implement the National Human Rights Strategy effectively in order to achieve concrete results in the areas highlighted in the annex to this letter and to facilitate the preparations for Angola's fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to all Member States is to implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the national human rights institution and all civil society organizations and, where necessary, with the support of international organizations, including my Office and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

I encourage Angola to continue to strengthen the Intersectoral Committee for the Preparation of National Human Rights Reports for comprehensive reporting and follow-up on recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and on treaty obligations, while linking these to the Sustainable Development Goals. I strongly recommend the use of the OHCHR practical guide on this topic, which is available at:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR\\_PUB\\_16\\_1\\_NMRF\\_PracticalGuide.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf).

Additionally, I would also like to note that Angola can seek the technical support from my Office to make use of the National Recommendations Tracking Database, an electronic system that facilitates the recording, tracking and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations emanating from international, regional and national human rights mechanisms.

Kindly note that I am sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting them with the implementation of the recommendations, following the review. An important measure that can contribute positively to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I welcome the practice of Angola to submit mid-term reports and encourage the Government to do so again on follow-up to the third cycle of the review, by 2022.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): *"The Human Rights Council's universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State scheduled for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council's recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals."*



Finally, kindly allow me to use this opportunity to express my Office's profound solidarity with your country and all Member States in connection with the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that despite unprecedented challenges it will soon be over in all countries worldwide, including through implementation of human rights based approaches to our collective response to the pandemic. I look forward to discussing with you ways in which my Office may assist Angola in relation to the areas identified in this letter and its annex.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Bachelet".

Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

cc: Mr. Pier Paolo Balladelli  
United Nations Resident Coordinator  
Republic of Angola

## Annex

### **Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies**

- Ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

### **National human rights framework**

- Establishing a national preventive mechanism to undertake regular unannounced visits to all places of deprivation of liberty and an independent mechanism to investigate all allegations of torture.

### **Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

##### *Equality and non-discrimination*

- Taking measures to enact legislation providing full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres and containing a comprehensive list of prohibited grounds of discrimination.

##### *Development, the environment, and business and human rights*

- Taking concrete measures to ensure that mining companies fulfil their human rights obligations, in accordance with the country's mining code and regional and international human rights standards.

### **Civil and political rights**

##### *Right to life, liberty and security of person*

- Intensifying efforts to remove antipersonnel mines and in particular to protect children against landmines, as well implementing a victim assistance programme that guarantees the rights of victims on equal terms and covers the needs related to disability, health and social assistance and, when relevant, seeking technical assistance and cooperation from appropriate international agencies.
- Ensuring that the principles of necessity and proportionality in the use of force are adequately reflected in legislation and policies and complied with in practice.

- Taking appropriate measures to ensure that no one under its jurisdiction is subject to arbitrary arrest or detention and incommunicado detention; carrying out prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigations into cases of arbitrary arrest and detention; and ensuring that detained persons enjoy all legal guarantees, in compliance with articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

- Taking additional measures to improve the administration of justice, in particular regarding access to justice, availability of legal aid, resources allocated to the justice system and capacity-building, as well as implementing actions to eliminate corruption in the judiciary.
- Intensifying efforts to increase the number of trained judges, prosecutors and lawyers, and accelerating implementation of the judicial reform with a view to ensuring that the newly established tribunals and courts (municipal and provincial) are fully staffed and operational.
- Providing capacity-building on national and international legal obligations on women's rights to actors involved in traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and ensuring that all necessary safeguards are provided to prevent violations of the rights of women by customary judicial mechanisms.
- Effectively implementing measures to reduce prison overcrowding, in particular through the promotion of alternatives to detention; ensuring that pretrial detention is used solely as an exceptional measure; and ensuring that detention conditions in all facilities meet the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).
- Taking additional steps to ensure that the juvenile justice system applies to children of up to 18 years of age and is provided with adequate human, technical and financial resources.
- Strengthening efforts to combat corruption and illicit financial flows; strengthening the capacity of the prosecution service and law enforcement agencies to combat corruption; and reinforcing good governance practices.

*Fundamental freedoms*

- Continuing legislative reforms to increase media freedom and strengthen protection of the rights to freedom of expression; and ensuring that all provisions of the press law are brought into conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Taking additional measures to ensure journalists and human rights defenders are able to carry out their activities without fear or undue hindrance, obstruction or legal and administrative harassment.

- Abolishing or amending all laws and policies which limit the activities carried out by civil society and human rights defenders.

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*

- Effectively implementing the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons and making sufficient resources available for its implementation; and taking additional measures to enforce anti-trafficking legislation.

**B. Economic, social and cultural rights**

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*

- Adopting implementation mechanisms for the new Labour Law and ensuring that the labour rights of all workers are protected.
- Increasing efforts to gradually decrease the number of workers in the informal economy, by integrating them in the formal labour force, and giving priority to the extension of social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy.

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

- Strengthening measures to address poverty and implementing targeted policies to improve the livelihoods of its people; and effectively implementing the integrated municipal programme for rural development and the fight against poverty 2018–2022.
- Enacting legislation to guarantee property rights and determine the circumstances and safeguards under which evictions can take place, and ensuring that evictions are used only as a last resort and that evictees are provided with alternative housing and/or alternative compensation.
- Implementing additional measures to ensure greater access to water and sanitation in all provinces.

*Right to health*

- Pursuing efforts to ensure universal access to basic health-care services, particularly by allocating more resources to the health-care sector while also improving infrastructure and expanding the availability of health-care facilities with qualified medical staff in rural areas.
- Continuing the implementation of programmes aimed at reducing child mortality and morbidity rates, including by improving the skills of midwives and adopting quality standards for maternal and new-born care.
- Enhancing access for women to inclusive health-care services by trained personnel; ensuring that all women and girls have access to affordable and modern forms of contraception; and amending the Penal Code to decriminalize abortion in all cases.

### *Right to education*

- Intensifying efforts to ensure universal access to free compulsory education for all, especially for persons in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities, persons belonging to linguistic minorities and those in rural areas; and developing additional strategies to address high dropout rates, especially of girls.
- Continuing efforts to improve literacy, particularly among women.

### **D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

#### *Women*

- Continuing efforts to combat discrimination against women and to implement the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity.
- Continuing to implement measures to promote the economic activities of women in rural areas.
- Promoting the active participation of women in public and political life, including by effectively monitoring the implementation of the Political Parties Act No. 22/10 of 3 December 2010, to ensure a greater representation of women in the lists of political parties, in provincial governments and in the three branches of government.
- Ensuring that the necessary legal and institutional mechanisms are in place to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women and girls; and increasing the number of shelters and allocating units in police stations and medical centres to support victims of gender-based violence.
- Enhancing measures and, when relevant, legally prohibiting all harmful practices, including, dowry, polygamy and levirate marriage, and female genital mutilation that are especially present in the rural areas of the country.

#### *Children*

- Expediting the revision of the Family Code to ensure that the minimum age of marriage is set at 18 years for both girls and boys, and that there are no exceptions to the minimum age of marriage, including under customary law; and criminalizing all forms of forced and child marriage.
- Adopting legislation to explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings.
- Continuing to combat accusations of witchcraft against children and adopting measures protect minors from persons who accuse them.



### *Persons with disabilities*

- Ensuring that children with disabilities have access to health care, social assistance and inclusive education, and intensifying measures to address prejudice against such children.

### *Minorities and indigenous peoples*

- Strengthening legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, and seeking the consent of indigenous peoples before carrying out development projects or granting licences to companies to carry out economic activities in their territories.

### *Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers*

- Speeding up the implementation of the law on asylum and refugee status adopted in 2015, especially by putting in place fair and efficient asylum procedures in order to facilitate access by asylum seekers and refugees to basic social services.
- Avoiding the mass expulsion of migrants and ensuring that repatriation is carried out with full respect for the human rights of the affected migrants.

### *Stateless persons*

- Eliminating practical obstacles to the birth registration of children born to foreign parents.
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