

# STATEMENT

BY

HER EXCELLENCY  
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WOMEN

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
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**PRIORITY THEME: "Financing for Gender Equality and  
the Empowerment of Women."**

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**Chairperson,  
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you upon your election to preside the work of this Committee. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

On behalf of my delegation, let me begin by saying that Angola is honored to deliver this statement on the priority theme: "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women".

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Member Countries of the G77 and China, and as well as with the statement made by Zambia on behalf of SADC.

We would like to express our appreciation for the reports that we have before us provided by the Secretary-General and we take note of the recommendations contained therein.

**Chairperson,**

We note with regret that the Report of the Secretary-General, entitled financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognized that still “there has been limited assessment of resource allocation to translate global commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment into action at the national level,” and that there is a strong need to improve and develop measures to close this gap.

In this sense, to increase the financing of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the Angolan government created a development strategy plan in 2003 to be completed by the year 2025, which encompasses the improvement of the well-being of the population, especially the rights and the equality of women, and we are pleased to say that since the plan was created, we have significantly increased the funds for health, social, education and other imperative areas.

We, by the end of the year 2007, organized a National Workshop on Finances, where there was the opportunity to create discussions that, in the short run, will help formulate a national policy of microfinance. The workshop was also able to address other topics such as “Methodologies and Better Practices on the Formulation of Policies, and Strategy of Microfinance for women’s empowerment.

**Chairperson,**

For the materialization of actions in the rural setting, we are implementing an agricultural development program whose main beneficiaries are women, youths, senior citizens and other people with specific necessities, thus improving their conditions of basic housing, access to health services, education, potable water, and micro-credit, among others.

I would like to stress that the Angolan Government will continue playing a crucial role in order to reduce poverty in households led by women through the concession of micro-credit and the creation of a legal and institutional environment that invites other actors to increase their investment in social programs.

In June of 2007, the Government of the Republic of Angola adhered to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all the Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to the Protocol of the African Letter on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples, related to the Rights of Women in Africa.

Angola's adherence to these International Legal Instruments demonstrates the firm will of the Government to take very concrete steps towards creating conditions for the implementation of policies and programs that are indeed conducive for financing gender equality and enhance the women's representation at the highest levels of national and international decision-making, with a view to ending the discrimination that hinders full gender integration, in particular, the empowerment of women

To conclude, Madam Chairperson, I invite this noble assembly to reflect on the following quote by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos: "The domain of families must be converted into a place of serenity, peace, sharing and mutual respect in order to reach equality and to guarantee ever fairer, more solidarity, and fraternal gender relations".

**Thank you very much**