



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**AT THE SPECIAL SESSION IN RESPONSE TO THE
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

NEW YORK, 3 and 4 DECEMBER 2020

820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

**YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANIZATION;**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. VOLKAN BOZKIR,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY;**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. TEDROS GHEBREYESUS,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION;**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In this year of 2020, humanity finds itself confronted with an unexpected threat to its survival, the COVID-19 pandemic, which today constitutes the most serious challenge to the normal functioning of the health, social and economic structures of virtually all countries in the world, in such a way that only collective and collaborative action can overcome such a challenge.

Since the beginning of the year, Angola has reacted and applied strict measures to contain the pandemic, by developing a flexible Multisectoral Contingency Plan that is adapted to the country's epidemiological profile.

Epidemiological surveillance throughout the national territory was strengthened, which included, amongst other measures, the establishment and training of rapid response teams and the health monitoring at international entry points, with the implementation of quarantines and mobility control between the different regions of the country.

We have progressively increased our testing capacity for RT-PCR and serological and antigen testing.

We have built infrastructures exclusively dedicated to the treatment of the COVID-19 existing cases, such as field hospitals, and have adapted all existing hospitals to deal with the cases, and have increased the number of available beds by five thousand, of which more than one thousand is meant for Intensive Care.

At this moment, we only have community transmission in Luanda, the country's capital and the most populous city, while the remaining provinces of the country sustain occasional outbreaks with known source of transmission.

Despite the growing number of positive cases, totaling 14,742, as of 24 November, the transmissibility of the virus from person to person has been decreasing, standing at 0.9%.

The fact that the pandemic has negatively affected the country's economic and financial resources, as well as the economic and social development programs, has not prevented Angola from continuing to make efforts and take actions aimed at reducing the poverty rates, and improve the quality and coverage of basic education and provide universal access to primary health cares, especially to the most vulnerable families.

The Government of Angola has so far employed its own resources in a sum that amounts to 164,600,000 dollars. This amount includes an emergency financing of \$ 14,400,000 from the World Bank.

Despite this, more assistance will be needed, especially for accessing the vaccines that will prove to be efficacious.

The accelerated development of safe and effective vaccines against the SARS-COV2 virus, with innovative technologies, is an example of what Humanity is capable of doing when threatened.

I therefore would like to welcome the efforts made by the COVAX Facility in mobilizing resources that will ensure, in an equitable manner, the vaccination of at

least 20 percent of the population in the middle and low income countries.

However, I believe that this effective collaborative effort must be increased in order to ensure a global coverage that will curb the transmission of the virus and allow the return to normality, preventing therefore the worsening of disparities among countries.

Angola has a vaccination plan that will initially cover 90 percent of its priority population.

On behalf of Angola, I would like to express our recognition and profound gratitude to the World Health Organization, as well as to the regional institutions, the African Union, and SADC, for the manner how they have spearheaded the coordination of efforts that have enabled each of our countries to face the enormous challenge that COVID-19 represents for the Humanity.

Thank you very much!