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Permanent Mission of

The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY**

**HE AMBASSADOR JOÃO GIMOLIECA,**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ECOSOC**

**PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

***“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”***

**New York, February 02, 2022**

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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HE AMBASSADOR JOÃO GIMOLIECA, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ECOSOC**

**PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**H.E. MR. COLLEN KELAPILE, PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC;**

**H.E. MS. AMINA MOHAMMED, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL; EXCELLENCIES;**

**DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;**

1. Angola associated itself to the statement delivered by Pakistan, on behalf of the G.77+China and we wish to make some remarks in our national capacity.
2. As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear today that it is a crisis of monumental proportions, with catastrophic effects on people’s lives and livelihoods, as well as in the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Historically, pandemics have served as catalysts for political, economic, and social change.
4. The year 2022 will be a decisive year for States on the ability to make the necessary changes to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, in the decade of action.
5. The current international crisis, according to the World Bank, represents a delay in the progress made in the last five years on combating poverty and food security in the world associated with other phenomena such as climate change.
6. Angola, like other states, has been severely affected by the pandemic crisis, mainly due to the fall in oil prices on international financial markets and the conditioning of domestic productive activity, whereas measures to contain the pandemic have had a direct effect on the profitability and supply of businesses, with the potential to increase unemployment on a large scale.
7. At the moment, the Republic of Angola has three enormous, short- and medium-term challenges for the implementation of the SDG:
8. to keep the economy under control, in particular to maintain the balance of tax accounts, external accounts and the stability of national currency purchasing power, while supporting economic recovery and the development of the private sector, and the implementation of social programmes to combat poverty and unemployment, exacerbated by the economic and health crises of COVID-19, and by climate change.
9. an acceleration to its efforts of economic diversification, to reduce its structural vulnerability, recognized in the request to postpone their graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) to February 2024;
10. Improve the quality of education and professional skills of young people, as well as technology transfer, in order to promote more sustainable, resilient development and contributing to economic diversification.
11. ***"Leave no one behind",*** is present in the Angolan National Development Plan, namely in gender equality and with the creation of better conditions for all Angolans.
12. The main good practices and lessons learned refer to the development and implementation of comprehensive programmes in the economic areas (**PRODESI**), local development program (**PIIM)** and socialprotection/monetary transfers **(Kwenda and Child Value).** Gender equality policy and institutions have also shown that the country is capable of continuing to improve the basis for greater gender equality on a sustained basis.

**EXCELLENCIES;**

**DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;**

1. The main emerging challenge is the impact that COVID-19 bring to the national economy, especially for the most vulnerable and dependent on the informal economy.
2. On the other hand, the pandemic also has very significant impacts on the country’s health systems, infrastructure, and conditions, requiring additional efforts to improve it.
3. In the economic area, Angola faces major challenges in reducing oil dependency, diversification and increasing employment, especially for young people and the population dependent on the informal economy. There is still a need to extend basic services, in particular access to quality health and education, water supply, energy and sanitation infrastructures, and the development of sustainable cities.

1. To conclude, the challenges are still enormous, but the next decade will be decisive in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I THANK YOU!