

STATEMENT BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY  
MOTA LIZ  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
AT 16/a SESSION OF CDS

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

First of all, I would like to salute you, Mr. President, and to congratulate you on your election to preside over the 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as for the importance and pertinence of the issues put on the agenda. My delegation associates itself to the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda in its capacity of President of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

In spite of the significant progress already made in the areas of sustainable development, the issues related to climate change, droughts and desertification in the African continent are still factors that stunt development, and that hinder agricultural growth and the improvement of the quality of life of the populations.

Mr. President,

At this point, allow me to give an account on the state of affairs in my Country. After the restoration of peace, the Angolan Government began implementing a series of economic and legislative reforms with the objective of promoting macroeconomic stabilization, the results of which can be seen reflected in the current growth rate of the Country. This process, which is based on principles of sustainable development, aims inter alia to revitalize the national economy, starting with the re-launching of agricultural production in order to supply our domestic market, and to utilize the remaining produce for exportation.

In addition to that, the Country is committed to the normalization of its democratization process, to the strengthening of its institutions, and to the creation of legal instruments and institutional mechanisms that help ensure good governance.

At the same time, Angola is invested in a long-term development strategy to guarantee an open and flexible economy, and in this context, the Government has created mechanisms for the mobilization of resources by fostering investments in the areas of agriculture and rural development, which are essential for the implementation of the poverty reduction program.

Angola possesses abundant natural resources and extensive fertile land with appropriate edaphic and climatic conditions for the farming of grains and other food products. Moreover, it has abundant water resources that make it possible to practice agriculture in irrigated perimeters.

The dramatic rise in food prices of the recent months has been causing a state of global crisis that can provoke political, social and economic instability, not only in developing countries in but also in the developed countries.

Therefore, my Country is promoting a more widespread use of technology and the expansion of arable areas with the use of mechanization, which will allow for more productivity, increase the food supply and food security of the population.

Mr. President,

With regards to rural development, the Government of Angola is implementing programs focused on the improvement of the living conditions in rural communities through the expansion of educational and health services, the promotion of suitable housing, potable water, electricity and basic sanitation. All these services will contribute to the fight against hunger and poverty.

In the area of desertification, Angola is preparing its National Programme of Action for the Combat of Desertification, which is in line with the objectives of the respective Convention.

Regarding Climate Change, Angola has approved its National Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Protocol of Kyoto, and is preparing the elaboration of its National Adaptation Programme.

Regarding forests, actions are being taken to guarantee the sustainable management of these resources. The Government is elaborating the main regulating instruments of the Forest Sector, namely the Forest Policy and the Law of Forests, Wild Fauna and Areas of Conservation. Likewise, the Country is preparing to carry out its first national forest inventory this year.

Regarding water and sanitation, the Government is implementing Water Rehabilitation and Expansion Programs, carrying out programs of Sanitation of Residual Waters in Urban Areas, Water Supply and Residual Water Sanitation in Rural Areas, Development of Appropriate Management Structures, and Development of the Legal and Institutional Framework. Of the above mentioned programs, we would like to highlight the "Water for All Programme", which will rehabilitate and expand the potable water supply systems in several localities.

In this fashion, with the implementation of the Water Sector Development Strategy, the macro indicators related to potable water supply show a growth in coverage from the current coverage of 34%, to 75% in the year 2016,.

Aware of the present polemic that surrounds the production of biofuel, we believe that it can contribute significantly for the reduction of unemployment by aiding in the creation of hundreds of thousand of wellpaying jobs and increasing the income of rural populations.

It is estimated that approximately 500 thousand acres may be destined to the production of biofuel, which is the equivalent to less than 2% of the nearly 35 million acres of potentially fertile lands that the country possesses, so it will not disturb the production of food.

Mr. President,

The Government's Poverty Combat Strategy, whose implementation began in 2003, and all the actions integrated in its programmes, seek to attain sustainable development and are in accordance with the goals established in the 2000 Millennium Summit, in the Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002 in Johannesburg, and with the decisions adopted in the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005.

These actions aim to reduce social inequalities, protect the vulnerable social groups, promote growth and increase job offers, reduce regional disparities, and resettle the populations that live in sensitive zones.

We believe that acknowledging the problems being debated is a positive stage, but that taking measures to revert the current global situation is of utmost importance. Only with concrete programmes that meet the

demands and needs of the most affected countries will we be able to march safely towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

Humanity faces the challenge of ensuring dignity in the life of all persons. We believe in our capacities; we only lack firm will on the part of some men.

We understand that we must rely first on our own engagement and resources, and only later on the good will of others, since this good will is taking long to materialize.

THANK YOU