

**STATEMENT**  
**UPR PRE-SESSION ON ANGOLA**  
**GENEVA, 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**  
**DELIVERED BY: PLATAFORMA MULHERES EM ACÇÃO (PMA)**

**1. Presentation of the organisation**

This statement is delivered on behalf of **Plataforma Mulheres em Acção (PMA)** an NGO focused on gender-based equality and works to promote equal rights opportunities and access for all genders, with a particular emphasis on addressing the disparities faced by women and marginalized communities.

**2. National Consultation for the drafting of the national report.**

PMA was involve engaging diverse stakeholders, civil society organisations and marginalized groups. The process ensures that the report reflects the voices and experiences of the population, promoting transparency and accountability.

**3. Plan of the statement**

This statement addresses the following issues on Gender-based violence: domestic violence, sexual harassment and trafficking, customary practices, gender pay gap.

**STATEMENT**

**I. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**A) Follow-up to the last review**

Angola received accepted 18 recommendations about to combat domestic violence, which include: *strengthen measures to prohibit all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres by adopting legislation to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls.*

**B) New developments since the last evaluation**

Despite progress in recognizing and addressing domestic violence, significant work remains to reduce its prevalence. Incremental improvements in public awareness and legal frameworks have occurred, but enforcement is weak. Cultural norms, especially in rural areas, still justify domestic abuse, complicating efforts for survivors to report incidents or seek justice. The Angolan government has ratified several international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Maputo Protocol, however, societal attitudes and government commitment to combatting GBV continue to pose challenges. In a recent State of the Nation address, President João Lourenço called for stronger penalties for domestic violence. A survey by Afrobarometer indicates that Angolans see gender-based violence as a critical issue needing government and societal action, emphasizing that it should be treated as a crime rather than a private matter.

**C) Recommendations**

- i.** Angolan Government should increase public awareness and education: launch nationwide campaigns targeting cultural norms that minimize GBV, especially in rural communities, while engaging men and boys in promoting positive gender norms.
- ii.** Revise and enforce the Law Against Domestic Violence and the Family Code so that it can typify, prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women under the terms of CEDAW.
- iii.** The Angolan government should enhance collaboration with NGOs, universities, public and private institutions to produce information and disaggregated data on domestic violence, as recommended by the CEDAW Committee.

**II. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND WOMEN TRAFFICKING EXPLOITATION**

**A) Follow-up to the last review**

Angola received 04 recommendations to adopt a policy to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and combat traditional stereotypes. This included: Strengthening legal protections (comprehensive anti-harassment legislation with clear

definitions, preventive measures, and penalties across all sectors), enhancing law enforcement training (provide specialized training to law enforcement and judicial personnel for better identification, investigation, and prosecution of trafficking and harassment cases) and conduct campaigns to inform communities about trafficking signs, exploitation dangers, and rights against harassment.

#### **B) New developments since the last evaluation**

While Angola has made strides since ratifying the Palermo Protocol, human trafficking remains a significant issue. The country continues to serve as a source, transit, and destination for trafficking victims, particularly for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Challenges include limited resources for enforcement, insufficient victim support, and socio-economic conditions that perpetuate vulnerability. Angola has enhanced its legal framework to combat trafficking, including the passage of anti-trafficking laws aligned with international standards, however, there are still gaps in the legal framework hampered by a weak institutional capacity.

#### **C) Recommendations**

- i.** Create programs aimed at children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor and expand existing programs to cover the entire problem of child labor.
- ii.** Allocate more resources to law enforcement and judiciary to ensure effective investigations and prosecutions of traffickers, and strengthen anti-corruption measures within law enforcement and border control agencies.

### **III. CHILD MARRIAGE AND POLYGAMY**

#### **A) Follow-up to the last review**

Angola received 02 recommendations strengthen measures to combat traditional stereotypes and gender inequality, particularly in relation to female genital mutilation and early marriages. Compromise to amend the legislation to explicitly prohibit child marriage by enforcing a minimum legal age of 18, and ensure strict enforcement of laws against child marriage and polygamy, with penalties for offenders.

#### **B) New developments since the last evaluation**

Polygamy and child marriage is still a practice in the Republic of Angola, despite the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee and the UN Children's Committee, no changes have been made to the legislation, namely the Family Code, or to traditional practices regarding marriage and alambento (traditional marriage). Cases of abuse by religious leaders, including family separation and sexual abuse, have been reported in the media, but the penalties applied are not severe enough to discourage these practices.

#### **C) Recommendations**

- i.** The Angolan state should enhance law enforcement mechanisms and provide training to local authorities to prevent underage marriages.
- II.** Invest in Education and Economic Empowerment for Girls: Prioritize education programs targeting girls and implement economic empowerment initiatives, such as vocational training, to reduce economic pressures leading to early marriages.

### **IV. GENDER PAY GAP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

#### **A) Follow-up to the last review**

Angola received 17 recommendations to address the gender pay gap and promote economic empowerment, including expand vocational and educational programs tailored for women to enhance skills and access better-paying jobs and promote and Implement policies to increase women's representation and participation in leadership positions.

#### **B) New developments since the last evaluation**

Angola has seen some progress in women's economic empowerment, with government and NGO initiatives aimed at improving workforce participation. Key developments

include a) Expanding educational access for girls, though rural areas still lack opportunities; b) microfinance programs: provide microloans and support women entrepreneurs in the informal market. c) While laws promoting gender equality exist, enforcement is weak, with discrimination and limited representation in leadership roles hindering economic empowerment.

**C) Recommendations**

**i.** To call on the Angolan state to suspend the use of force against street vendors that has resulted in deaths and to find ways to organize and protect street vendors.

**ii.** The Angolan state should implement programs encouraging women to enter higher-paying industries, such as oil and technology, through scholarships and vocational training.

**iii.** Enhance monitoring and enforcement of law to ensure compliance with equal pay regulations and establish gender quotas in leadership to improve representation.

**iv.** Improve access to financial resources for women entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas.

Geneva, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

PMA declaration