



Speaker: Matondo Emanuel, **DIAMPANGA**

Mr. President,

Thank you for the chance to speak today. I am a human rights defender from Angola, delivering this statement on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

Since the end of the war, (except in the oil-rich Province of Cabinda), the Government of Angola has been implementing a national reconstruction program, building new social, economic and cultural infrastructure across the country. However, the implementation of this program does not in most cases comply with the fundamental rights to housing of citizens.

Allow me to highlight some cases in which thousands of victims currently waiting for reparations or relocation to adequate housing. From 29 May to 4 June 2013, about 3,000 families living in Areia Branca, located in the area called Coreia, in the municipality of Luanda, were evicted by the Provincial Government of Luanda (GPL) without providing any alternative housing. These families are, until now, living in an open area between two municipal drainage ditches. On January 20, 2014, about 4000 families who lived in either Quilombo and Chicala, in the urban district of Ingombota, were evicted from their land and relocated to either Zango or Quiçama. Neither relocation area offers adequate living conditions and those from Quilombo were resettled in tents and containers now located 125 km from the city of Luanda. Those who speak out against this injustice and defend the rights of victims are facing repeated threats and denied access to justice.

Mr. President,

We ask the Angolan government to immediately stop forced evictions and demolitions; stop harassment of victims and activists defending their rights; stop using military force and paramilitary groups against citizens; ensure that proper consultation mechanisms including compensation are put place in cases where lands might be needed for the delivery of public services; and bring to justice perpetrators of various acts of forced evictions.

Thank you Mr. President