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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Angola

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I. Introduction and methodology used in the preparation of the report

1. The promotion and protection of human rights, which are enshrined in the Constitution, constitute one of the pillars of the Republic of Angola.
2. The human rights situation has improved since 2020, although challenges remain. Since the beginning of the new political cycle under the leadership of President João Lourenço, elected for the periods 2017–2022 and 2022–2027, human rights have taken on another dimension and received special attention.
3. The human rights situation in Angola was reviewed by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council in November 2019, and the report of the Working Group was adopted at the forty-third session in March 2020. Of the 270 recommendations made in the report, the Government accepted 259 and took note of 11.
4. This report responds to the recommendations made by States and reflects the measures taken on the basis of the Government's priorities under the National Development Plans for the periods 2018–2022 and 2023–2027 and the Angola 2050 Long-term Development Strategy.
5. The present report has been prepared by the Intersectoral Committee for the Preparation of National Human Rights Reports,¹ which is the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up on recommendations, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Civil society organizations cooperate and participate whenever they are consulted. The ministers and heads of institutions that sit on the Intersectoral Committee are responsible for decision-making; the Committee also has a technical group.
6. The recommendations were disseminated and discussed through seminars, publications and other activities, with the involvement of State and non-State actors, including deputies of the National Assembly and the Ombudsperson.² Examples include the publication and dissemination of 2,000 copies of the two-volume book *Angola na Avaliação Periódica Universal (Angola in the Universal Periodic Review)*,³ a workshop to present the results of the country's participation in the third cycle of the universal periodic review,⁴ a seminar for civil society organized by the Lutheran World Federation and round tables with partners from Norway, the United States of America and the European Union.

II. Implementation of recommendations from previous cycles

7. This section details the results of the implementation of recommendations received in previous cycles, especially the third cycle. The information is set out in thematic blocks. Most recommendations have been implemented or are being implemented.

Development of the legal and institutional framework for the protection of human rights

International treaties and commitments (Recommendations 1–29 and 37–40)

8. Angola is a State party to seven of the nine core international human rights treaties and to all African Union human rights treaties. Further to the recommendations received, Angola:
 - Has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;⁵
 - Has ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;⁶
 - Has ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;⁷

- Has signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and is in the process of ratifying it;
- Is reviewing the standards set forth in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- Has been a State party to the International Labour Organization Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) since 1976 and is studying accession to the Protocol of 2014.

9. Under article 13 of the Constitution, the international conventions ratified by Angola form an integral part of the domestic legal order. The provisions of such conventions are thus a part of domestic law and are directly applicable by the courts.⁸

Angola at the Human Rights Council

10. Angola participates in the Council's sessions and has served as a member three times, most recently for the period 2018–2020. It has fulfilled several of its pledges; others are at the stage of being implemented.⁹

11. The Government remains committed to continued cooperation with the special procedures of the Council, responding positively to rapporteurs' visits and strengthening its commitment to transparency and the protection of human rights. Examples of this cooperation include:

- The visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (2016)
- The visit of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members (2022)
- The visit of the Independent Expert on foreign debt (2024)
- The visit of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, led by its Chairperson (2024)
- Scheduled visits by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

12. Angola relies on cooperation with the 17 United Nations agencies present in the country to support the Government in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

13. In February 2024, Angola and the United Nations launched a Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Legal framework

(Recommendations 30–36 and 41, 42 and 47)

14. During this cycle, several laws and policies in the human rights sphere have been adopted, notably the National Human Rights Strategy and its action plan (pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 100/20 of 14 April 2020). More than 80 per cent of the measures set out in the action plan have already been implemented.

15. The National Human Rights Strategy establishes monitoring mechanisms, including the Intersectoral Committee for the Preparation of National Human Rights Reports and local human rights committees, to ensure the effective implementation of its guidelines and objectives.

16. The following public policies and strategic plans are worth highlighting:

(a) The national plan of action for the elimination of child labour (2021–2025)¹⁰ and the establishment of a follow-up commission;

(b) The National Development Plan 2023–2027,¹¹ the first component of which is devoted to consolidating peace and the democratic rule of law and continuing the reform of the State, the justice system, the public administration, social communication, freedom of expression and civil society;

(c) As part of the reform of the State, the Commission for Judicial and Legal Reform¹² is monitoring the introduction of a new judicial structure, coordinating various sectoral programmes linked to the reform and giving continuity to the development of laws in harmony with international human rights standards.

17. Within the framework of this reform, the following laws have been enacted:

(a) Organic Act No. 29/22 of 29 August 2022 on the Organization and Functioning of the Courts of Ordinary Jurisdiction;

(b) Act No. 38/20 of 11 November 2020, the Criminal Code of Angola;

(c) Act No. 39/20 of 11 November 2020, the Code of Criminal Procedure;

(d) Act No. 12/24 of 4 July 2024 amending the Act to Prevent and Combat Money-Laundering, the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction;

(e) The Framework Act on the Organization and Functioning of the National Police (No. 6/20 of 24 March 2020);

(f) Act No. 27/20 of 20 July 2020 on the Ombudsperson;

(g) Act No. 29/20 of 28 July 2020, the Statute of the Ombudsperson;

(h) The General Labour Act (No. 12/23 of 27 December 2023);

(i) Act No. 2/24 of 19 March 2024, the Code of Labour Procedure;

(j) The Amnesty Act (No. 35/22 of 24 December 2022);

(k) The Public Appropriation Act (No. 13/22 of 25 May 2022);

(l) The Civil Service Framework Act (No. 26/22 of 22 August 2022);

(m) Act No. 31/22 of 30 August 2022, the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Institutional framework (Recommendations 43–61)

National mechanism for reporting and follow-up on recommendations

18. As mentioned above (para. 5), the Intersectoral Committee for the Preparation of National Human Rights Reports is the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up on recommendations.

19. The mechanism is quite active. It is part of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and it participates in the training of African and United Nations mechanisms.

National human rights institution

20. In 2015, Angola established the Office of the Ombudsperson, which to an extent complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), especially in terms of its independence. The Office was established by law by the National Assembly, has a constitutional guarantee and mandate and is in the process of accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

21. Under the Constitution,¹³ the Office of the Ombudsperson is an independent public body whose purpose is to defend the fundamental rights, freedoms and guarantees of citizens, ensuring, through informal means, justice and the legality of public administration. The Office has administrative and financial autonomy and its own premises.

22. The Statute of the Ombudsperson and the Act on the Ombudsperson have been revised to allow the recruitment of additional employees through public competitive examination, so that citizens' complaints and claims can be examined more quickly.

23. The Office of the Ombudsperson has branches in 10 of the 18 provinces, 4 more than in the previous cycle. Provincial offices have brought the services of the Ombudsperson closer to citizens, with the number of complaints handled rising from 400 in 2020 to 7,386 in 2023.¹⁴ The reports of the Office are made public.¹⁵

24. In terms of human resources, it currently has 156 employees. The budget is funded from the general State budget and is managed autonomously.

25. The Office is receiving support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to carry out various activities, to align itself with the Paris Principles and to obtain certification as a national human rights institution.

III. Promotion and protection of human rights: cross-cutting issues

A. Measures to ensure equality and non-discrimination (Recommendations 62–71)

26. In Angola, all legislation respects the principle of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in article 23 of the Constitution. The State not only prohibits discrimination but is radically opposed to all forms of discrimination.

27. To reinforce this principle, article 212 of the Criminal Code imposes a penalty of up to 2 years' imprisonment for anyone who engages in discriminatory acts on the grounds of race, colour, ethnicity, place of birth, gender, sexual orientation, illness, physical or mental disability, belief or religion, political or ideological convictions, social status or origin, or any other form of discrimination.

28. Cases of discrimination have been reported and brought to trial.¹⁶

29. Angola has participated in the UNDP campaign “We Belong” since 2021 and has carried out different activities in cooperation with the LGBTIQ+ community and other key populations.

30. There are recognized civil society organizations that represent the LGBTIQ+ community.

31. The National Police has participated in training activities run by civil society organizations representing the LGBTIQ+ community to promote officers' respect for the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons.

B. Right to development, the environment and business and human rights (Recommendations 72–85)

32. In cooperation with Norway and UNDP, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has organized several activities and meetings to reflect on business and human rights mechanisms aligned with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

33. Angolan industries have an obligation, under their social responsibility plans, to create adequate living conditions for communities living in industrial areas, for example, through the construction of homes, hospitals, schools and day-care centres. They must also assess the environmental impact of their activities and involve communities in these processes. The following legislation is noteworthy:

(a) Article 75 of the Constitution;

(b) The Mining Code, whose article 16 (on the rights of communities) states that mining policy must always take account of the customs of communities in the areas where activities are carried out and must contribute to their sustainable economic and social development;

(c) Presidential Decree No. 117/20 of 22 April 2020, which amends the procedures for environmental licensing and environmental impact assessment, which are mandatory for all entities;

(d) Act No. 5/98 of 19 June 1998, the Framework Act on the Environment;

(e) Article 282 of the Criminal Code, which establishes the offence of aggression against the environment.

34. In relation to demining, significant resources have been mobilized with a view to clearing the remaining 1,220 minefields by 2025 in accordance with international commitments. Some 70 per cent of these resources come from the general State budget and 30 per cent from international cooperation.

35. Intensive verification and clearance operations undertaken by the National Demining Institute in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the HALO Trust and the Security and Demining Society of Angola, members of the Angolan Armed Forces and the Border Guard, have resulted in the removal of more than 5 million explosive devices.

IV. Civil and political rights

A. Right to life, liberty and security of person (Recommendations 86–100)

Regulation of the carrying of weapons

36. The national legal framework that governs the carrying and use of firearms includes, specifically, Decision No. 10/08 of 16 May 2008 on the campaign for the disarmament of citizens illegally in possession of firearms; and Joint Order No. 15/89 of 24 June 1989, which regulates the carrying and use of weapons by members of the armed forces and internal security agencies.

37. Since the establishment in 2008 of the National Commission for Civilian Disarmament, coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior, 111,889 firearms, 69,024 magazines, 767,111 munitions and 161,891 projectiles have been voluntarily surrendered.

Fight against torture, arbitrary detention and accountability

38. Angola condemns and prohibits all forms and acts of torture or inhuman and degrading treatment, whether committed by the security forces, other agents of the State or citizens.

39. Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment are prohibited under article 60 of the Constitution, a norm that cuts across all laws related to the treatment of human beings. Article 370 of the Criminal Code contains a definition of torture in line with the Convention against Torture, which Angola has ratified.¹⁷

40. Article 63 of the Constitution provides for the rights of detainees and prisoners, while article 64 relates to conditions of deprivation of liberty and article 67 to guarantees in criminal proceedings. The Prisons Act (No. 8/08 of 29 August 2008) builds upon these rights and guarantees. Also relevant in this regard is the disciplinary regime for National Police personnel,¹⁸ which is in line with international standards.

41. Consequently, members of any branch of the National Police or the Prison Service may not, in the performance of their duties, commit acts of torture against persons detained or deprived of their liberty in prisons or detention centres. Where torture is committed by an agent of the State, this is an aggravating factor that entails more severe penalties (Criminal Code).

42. In the event of alleged cases of torture, arbitrary detention or other violations of fundamental rights by the security forces, there are mechanisms for reporting and for holding perpetrators accountable.

43. The Criminal Investigation Service has a Department of Investigation and Complaints, attached to the Attorney General's Office, which deals with cases involving improper conduct by National Police officers and others who, in the exercise of their duties, overstep the mark and thereby violate the rights of individuals.

44. The Department of Investigation and Criminal Prosecution of the Attorney General's Office also investigates such excesses, especially in relation to high-ranking officials.

45. The National Police registered 79 cases in 2017, 186 cases in 2018 and 7 cases in 2019 in which offending officers received a range of disciplinary and criminal sanctions, including prison sentences, dismissal, demotion and fines.

46. When the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic struck in 2020, Angola, like most countries, declared a state of emergency,¹⁹ which lasted for 60 days. During this period, some instances of excessive use of force were recorded, involving individual actions for which the perpetrators were held accountable. Of the 185 proceedings that were recorded, 157 consisted of investigations and 28 were disciplinary sanctions, of which 10 were referred to the military judicial police and 9 to the Criminal Investigation Service.

47. In 2023, 46 officers were expelled from the National Police; 32 were expelled in the first half of 2024.

48. There have been no reports of arbitrary detention. When a situation is reported or a case is suspected, a credible investigation is carried out. If arbitrary detention is detected, one of two authorities – the Public Prosecution Service or the due process judge – will intervene directly to restore legality. One of the functions of the due process judge is to ensure the protection of detainees' fundamental rights and guarantees and thus prevent arbitrary detention (Criminal Code, arts. 313 and 315).

49. With regard to training and awareness-raising for police officers, the subject of human rights forms part of the curriculum of the National Institute of Forensic Sciences, where the National Police are trained. Under a memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of the Interior/National Police, between 2018 and 2023, 18 train-the-trainer courses were attended by more than 2,300 officers, who have already replicated the courses in the provinces, providing training to more than 7,000 officers. The training sessions covered the use of force by security officers and the Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa (the Robben Island Guidelines).

Prison conditions

50. The rate of prison overcrowding in Angola is 3 per cent. There are 42 prison facilities in operation, with capacity for 20,972 inmates. All prisons have a women's wing and there is a prison hospital and a prison psychiatric hospital. All facilities have medical services, including psychology services.

51. Conditions of detention have improved with the expansion of the prison network and the continuous training of prison staff on, for example, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

52. The regulations on the disciplinary regime of National Police personnel and the Organic Statute of the National Police establish disciplinary penalties for various offences. The National Police is also subject to the Military Crimes Act. All of these instruments are in conformity with international standards.

53. Act No. 25/15 of 18 September 2015 on Interim Measures in Criminal Proceedings provides for non-custodial coercive measures (including house arrest and the requirement to provide proof of identity and residence) under which the accused remains free on supervised

release; this keeps the prison population from increasing. More than 1,000 prisoners were released pursuant to the Amnesty Act of 2022.

54. To monitor and oversee possible cases of excessive pretrial detention, a commission was set up to analyse pretrial detention on a case-by-case basis. It is chaired by the presiding judge of the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court and composed of representatives of the Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of State for Human Rights and Citizenship, the Ombudsperson, the Angolan Bar Association and the Prison Service.

55. The Prison Service takes several measures to facilitate communication and interaction between the prison authorities, prisoners and their communities or families. Family members, religious entities and civil society organizations enjoy visiting rights, and communication takes place through lawyers and the Prison Service team. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a "virtual visiting room" project was launched to allow prisoners to communicate with their families and lawyers via the Internet.

56. The Prisons Act provides for visits to be carried out by judges and the Public Prosecution Service, the Ombudsperson, the Secretary of State for Human Rights and Citizenship and civil society organizations as a means of verifying and monitoring compliance with rules relating to the rights of detainees.

B. Administration of justice, impunity and the rule of law (Recommendations 101–115)

Justice system reform and strengthening

57. The Government continues to work to make justice faster, more effective and closer to citizens. As mentioned above, the judicial reform continues to see progress and the Commission for Judicial and Legal Reform, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, has been renewed. The following results have been achieved:

(a) The Act on the Organization and Functioning of the Courts of Ordinary Jurisdiction and the Courts of Appeal Act have been adopted, and the statutes of judges and prosecutors amended;

(b) Thirty-nine district courts have been established to replace the provincial and municipal courts;

(c) Three courts of appeal or of second instance have been established (one in Luanda, one in Benguela and one in Huíla);

(d) The Division of Commerce and Intellectual and Industrial Property has been operational since January 2021;

(e) There has been an increase in the number of judges (772, an increase of 441 since 2019), prosecutors (790, an increase of 386 since 2019), and lawyers registered with the Bar Association and trainee lawyers (approximately 12,000).

58. To improve access to justice for vulnerable groups, including women, the Constitution provides for free legal aid, which is governed by Act No. 15/95 of 24 January 1995 on Legal Aid and implemented through the Bar Association with State financial support. Between 2019 and 2021, about 15,000 people received free legal aid.

59. Since 2014, out-of-court dispute settlement centres,²⁰ staffed by lawyers and trainee lawyers, have provided legal information and advice. In addition, the Voluntary Arbitration Act and the Dispute Mediation and Conciliation Act²¹ are in force.

60. The Attorney General's Office is drafting a new organic act and a new statute on the Public Prosecution Service and plans to establish a national directorate of constitutional review and protection of human rights.

61. Judges and prosecutors receive training, including on the subject of human rights, at the National Institute of Judicial Studies, to which admission is by competitive examination.

Juvenile justice

62. The age of criminal responsibility is 16 years (Criminal Code, art. 17). Minors aged between 16 and 18 years serve their sentences in prisons, in separate cells from adults.

63. Minors under the age of 16 are considered children in conflict with the law, and measures of assistance, education or correction may be applied only under the juvenile jurisdiction. Cases involving child victims are dealt with under a special jurisdiction for minors.

64. In 2023, three integrated centres for the care of minors and adolescents were opened in a collaborative project between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the European Union and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. There are now five such centres, in Luanda, Malanje, Moxico, Huíla and Cuanza Sul. Tutelary commissions for minors have been strengthened in all provinces.

Combating corruption

65. Combating corruption has been one of the main priorities set forth in the Plan of Government since 2017. Several legislative documents have been adopted in that context, including the Public Probity Act; the Compulsory Repatriation of Financial Resources and Extended Loss of Property Act; the Act on Crimes Committed by Holders of Positions of Responsibility; the Public Assets Act; transparency rules concerning the preparation, management and auditing of the general State budget; the review of the Act on the Court of Auditors and of the Inspectorate General of State Administration; annual rules for the execution of the general State budget; the legal regime on the liability of the State and other public entities; and the laws on procurement and money-laundering.

66. At the institutional level, the National Strategy to Prevent and Repress Corruption 2024–2027²² was adopted following the implementation of the strategic plan to prevent and combat corruption 2018–2022, which was coordinated by the National Directorate for Preventing and Countering Corruption and the Asset Recovery Office, both under the Attorney General's Office. The criminal investigation and examination mechanisms of the Criminal Investigation Service and the National Police have been strengthened. The Inspectorate General of the State Administration and the Court of Auditors have redoubled their efforts to audit public finances and accounts within their jurisdiction in order to detect illegal activities. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Commission, which includes the Financial Intelligence Unit, was established.

67. Between 2017 and 2022, 2,511 investigative processes were initiated for crimes of embezzlement, money-laundering, corruption, economic participation in business and other financial crimes involving, among others, holders of public office. Of those processes, 2,037 remain at the pretrial investigation stage and 474 have been referred to the courts for trial, leading to 40 convictions.

68. During the same period, 3,645 asset declarations were submitted to the Attorney General's Office by public office holders and other persons required by law to make such declarations.

69. Since 2019, the National Asset Recovery Service has recovered more than \$7 million in cash, shares, real estate and movable property. In 2023, the Attorney General's Office received an international award, recognizing Angola as the country that recovered the most assets.

70. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has set up a hotline to make it easier for citizens to file complaints about acts of corruption by public officials in the exercise of their functions.

C. Fundamental freedoms and participation in public and political life (Recommendations 117–132)

Freedom of religion

71. Notable legislative developments include the revision of Act No. 12/19 of 14 May 2019 on Freedom of Religion and Worship and its regulations (Presidential Decree No. 51/20 of 28 February 2020) and the adoption of the Organic Statute of the National Institute for Religious Affairs (Presidential Decree No. 237/19 of 29 July 2019).

72. In Angola, religious communities are protected and discrimination based on religion or belief is not tolerated.

73. Religious denominations are registered and undergo regularization processes. There are currently 85 recognized faiths, including 4 that were recognized in 2022 and 5 in 2024.

Freedom of expression

74. The freedoms of expression, information and the press are enshrined in articles 40 and 44 of the Constitution in accordance with human rights standards.

75. A package of legislation on the press, adopted in 2017, is currently under review. As part of this process, new laws have already been enacted, including Act No. 17/22 of 6 July 2022 amending the Press Act.

76. The board of the Regulatory Body for Angolan Mass Media is an independent and autonomous body that monitors the exercise of the freedoms of expression, information and the press and issues opinions on the practices of the media.

77. Angola also has a Portfolio and Ethics Commission, which regulates the activity of journalists. There are currently 3,275 registered journalists (2,620 men and 655 women).

78. The Criminal Code provides for the possibility of fines instead of imprisonment for those who, in exercising their freedom of expression, besmirch a person's honour, reputation or good name. This strengthens the protection of citizens' honour and good name.

79. In recent years, no journalists have been detained for exercising their freedom of expression or killed in the exercise of their profession. In all cases where journalists have reportedly been arrested, they have been acquitted or conditionally released.

80. The number of media outlets has increased: there are 248 newspapers, 468 magazines, 161 newsletters, 17 websites, 47 radio stations, 5 television channels (4 conventional and 1 online), 1 news agency, 48 companies and 3 distributors.

Freedom of assembly and demonstration

81. Freedom of assembly and demonstration is enshrined in article 47 of the Constitution and Act No. 16/91 of 11 May 1991 on the Right of Assembly and Demonstration. Citizens may demonstrate freely, provided that their actions do not violate the rights of others and are peaceful and respectful of public order, in accordance with human rights principles. A variety of demonstrations take place in the country, organized by citizens who freely express their concerns and opinions.

82. Between 2018 and 2023, for example, there were 803 demonstrations,²³ all peacefully monitored by the National Police. Luanda is the province where most demonstrations take place.

83. Officers are held accountable for excessive use of force (see paragraphs 45–47).

84. It should be clarified that some violent acts may be mistaken for demonstrations. These include acts of vandalism and violence by citizens, especially in the provinces of Luanda, Cabinda, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Huambo. In these cases, criminal proceedings are instituted and the perpetrators are tried in court.

Freedom of association

85. Freedom of association is guaranteed by article 48 of the Constitution and by the Private Associations Act and its regulations, which set out the framework for the establishment of associations. In 2021, the status of public interest was approved (Presidential Decree No. 138/21), on which basis public funds are allocated to associations whose work is considered relevant.

86. In May 2023, the parliament passed, in broad terms, a draft law on the status of NGOs, which is aligned with the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa and with the rules and recommendations for financial institutions on combating money-laundering and the use of non-profit organizations for the financing of terrorism.

87. The number of registered associations has risen from 620 in 2020 to 1,076 at present.²⁴

Dialogue with civil society and human rights defenders

88. Human rights defenders are legally protected. Dialogue and cooperation with civil society is open and ongoing. One of the main specific objectives of the National Human Rights Strategy is to strengthen dialogue with civil society, which is considered a key partner. Furthermore, Angola supported a Human Rights Council resolution aimed at supporting environmental human rights defenders.

89. The Government has established systems for receiving information from and consulting with civil society organizations. Representatives of civil society hold seats on the Council of the Republic, a consultative body that works with the Office of the President, and on the social participation and coordination councils. The President meets with civil society organizations during his visits to the provinces. Human rights forums are held with civil society organizations (six since 2016) and follow-up action is taken in respect of their recommendations. The Secretary of State for Human Rights and Citizenship visits the offices of various civil society organizations and maintains ongoing dialogue with them. At the provincial level, civil society organizations are members of local human rights committees. The various ministries have civil society partners and hold ongoing dialogue and public consultations on the various policies. Participatory²⁵ and gender-sensitive budgets have been introduced. Representatives of civil society organizations have participated in the training courses organized by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights at the national and international levels.

D. Prohibition of all forms of slavery and trafficking in persons (Recommendations 133–143)

90. Trafficking in persons and all forms of exploitation or slavery are prohibited under article 12 of the Constitution. There is a wide array of laws and public policies in this regard. For example:

(a) The Criminal Code includes several provisions on trafficking in persons, defining various forms of conduct as offences for the purpose of protecting the individual, such as article 178, which defines trafficking in persons;

(b) In February 2020, the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted;²⁶

(c) The national plan of action for the elimination of child labour in Angola, 2021–2025, was adopted in 2021;

(d) Flow charts and standardized procedures for the care of minors who are victims of violence (2021);²⁷

(e) National Referral Mechanism and standardized operating systems.²⁸

91. The main institution responsible for combating trafficking in persons is the Interministerial Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons, created in 2014, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and is composed of various

ministries, the National Police and the Attorney General's Office and cooperates with civil society organizations.

92. Actions to combat trafficking in persons under the National Plan are grouped into four categories: promotion, protection, prosecution and cooperation.

93. Angola joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Blue Heart Campaign in 2018 to raise awareness of trafficking in persons. In 2019 it began contributing to the Southern African Development Community case collection database. More than 4,000 books and pamphlets on trafficking in persons have been produced.

94. Training activities have been held for more than 8,000 people, including officials of the National Police and the health, justice, communication, transportation, youth and other sectors.

95. The Commission has a database containing information on 207 cases registered and followed up since 2015.²⁹

V. Economic, social and cultural rights

96. The National Development Plans for 2018–2022 and 2023–2027 provided for the allocation of 20 per cent of the general State budget to the social sector. This target was exceeded in 2023, with 30 per cent.

97. It is important to note that there are also other budget lines that include investments for these sectors, such as the Integrated Municipal Intervention Plan, the Integrated Plan for Local Development and Poverty Reduction and the Public Investment Programme, in addition to other specific projects with international partners such as the World Bank, United Nations agencies, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others.

A. Right to work and to favourable conditions of work (Recommendation 144)

98. It is estimated that informal employment accounts for 79.7 per cent of total employment, with rates of 88.5 per cent for women and 70.8 per cent for men. To improve these indicators, the Programme for the Restructuring of the Informal Economy, which promotes the transition from the informal to the formal economy, is under way and several laws have been adopted or amended for this purpose.

99. As of August 2022, 246,189 enterprises had been formalized. In 2023, a new version of the Programme was launched and 224 microenterprises were formalized.

100. The legal framework governing mandatory social protection for workers in agriculture, fishing and small businesses³⁰ has been established. Its primary objective is to expand the mandatory social protection scheme to cover employees who work in sectors with very low rates of protection, such as agriculture and fishing.

101. In 2016, the legal and social protection regime for domestic workers was adopted. It sets out a definition of "domestic workers" and provides that social protection contributions for domestic workers are mandatory. The aim of the law is to take thousands of people, especially women, out of the informal sector. To date, 11,375 people have been registered as insured and 5,067 have been registered with contributions.

B. Right to an adequate standard of living (Recommendations 144–164)

Poverty reduction

102. Sustainable development and poverty reduction are both priorities for the Government. Angola is therefore committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

103. Under the National Development Plan for 2018–2022, the Integrated Municipal Programme for Local Development and Poverty Reduction (2018–2022) was adopted. Its main purpose is to help reduce poverty and promote human development and well-being by allocating funds to all municipalities on a monthly basis.

104. Regulations were adopted for the Centralized Social Register to harmonize social programmes and projects. This will help improve the provision of benefits to individuals and families in situations of vulnerability and poverty. The programme for the provision of social services at the municipal level is being expanded.

105. Various programmes are being implemented, such as a project on assistance to highly vulnerable families using a social support card and a programme to strengthen social protection (Kwenda Programme), which is aimed at providing support to 1,677,292 poor and vulnerable families, of which 1,061,798 have already benefited.

106. Also worthy of note is the implementation of the Integrated Municipal Intervention Plan, which is focused on supporting development and basic activities, with priority given to social actions, in order to slow down the exodus from rural areas and promote more inclusive economic, social and regional growth in the country. It has a budget of \$2 billion, recovered as a result of anti-corruption efforts. More than 2,270 projects are being implemented, mostly in the social sector, such as the construction and rehabilitation of schools, municipal hospitals and medical points (300).

Decent housing

107. The National Housing Policy was adopted to improve the population's quality of life and access to housing. As a result, 17,786 homes have been allocated.

108. Through the national subprogramme (in progress) of 200 housing units per municipality, 24,800 housing units have been built in 135 of the country's 164 municipalities.

109. Evictions occur only by means of judicial process or administrative eviction in cases of illegal occupation. Act No. 1/21 of 7 January 2021, the Expropriations Act, establishes the principles and specific procedures for expropriation for reasons of public utility. The Government always takes measures prior to the implementation of any project that affects population groups, including prior notification of families, communities and all parties concerned.

Access to water and basic sanitation

110. Investments are made every year to increase access to water services, but increasing the rate of coverage, which currently stands at 56 per cent, remains a challenge. For the period 2023–2027, the construction of 1.4 million home connections is planned. This will bring water to more than 7 million people, raising the coverage rate to 61 per cent.

111. Special attention is being paid to the drought in southern Angola, specifically in the provinces of Cunene, Huíla, Namibe and Cuando Cubango, with an affected population of 1,340,781 inhabitants. Under the emergency assistance programme established in 2019, 114 out of 171 water points have been rehabilitated and 54 new water points have been built in the province of Huíla and 43 in Namibe. The 165-km Cafu canal, a system for transferring water from the Cunene River that includes 31 reservoirs, was inaugurated in April 2022. Six large dams and canals are now under construction.

112. The programme on strengthening resilience and food and nutritional security is also being implemented in southern Angola in collaboration with the European Union. The

projects focus on access to water, promotion of food and nutritional security, and small processing and marketing initiatives.

113. With respect to sanitation, significant progress has been made in recent years. All newly built developments have sanitation services. Considering that much of the population resides in peri-urban areas, the focus is on service rather than infrastructure. This will lead to an inclusive approach to sanitation, allowing sanitation solutions to be harmonized with urban services.

C. Right to health (Recommendations 165–178)

114. The national health system is free and universal and there is also a broad network of private services and other stakeholders that, on the basis of the national health policy and action by the Ministry of Health, are ensuring the ongoing implementation of the national health development plan for the period 2012–2025.

115. In 2017, Angola had 2,612 health units; in 2023, it had 3,341, an increase of 729 health units, mainly at the primary level and as a result of the implementation of the Integrated Municipal Intervention Plan.

116. The expansion of health infrastructure has been accompanied by the annual allocation of funds to municipalities for primary healthcare, in the context of the effort to provide health services at the municipal level. The goal is to improve the supply of quality services for health promotion and for the prevention and treatment of the diseases most commonly affecting the population, by bringing services closer to communities. Some 60 per cent of municipal health units have the basic package of essential care and medicines, registering a considerable increase since 2017, when this figure stood at 30 per cent. In addition, 80 per cent of health units are receiving essential drugs, medical devices and other health products, up from 40 per cent in 2017.

117. Over the last five years, 41,093 staff members have been hired and placed mainly in primary care, representing an increase of 40.5 per cent.

118. To strengthen the training and qualification of the workforce, the authorities are implementing an ambitious plan for the specialized training of 38,000 professionals.

119. In terms of strengthening medical assistance, logistics are being improved through bulk purchases, through which medicines and medical products have been acquired for the malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programmes, as well as vaccines and medicines to treat hypertension and diabetes. Over the period from 2017 to 2022, 900 tons of biosafety materials and laboratory and testing equipment were purchased, as were more than 15,000 essential medicine kits for health centres.

Maternal and child mortality

120. With regard to sexual and reproductive health, a national campaign to accelerate the reduction of maternal and child mortality was launched in 2010 and the National Commission for the Prevention and Auditing of Maternal, Neonatal and Child Deaths was established in 2012. More than 700 health units are following the relevant protocols and providing sexual and reproductive health services.

121. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry for Social Action, the Family and the Advancement of Women have trained more than 3,450 traditional midwives and have raised the awareness of 3,450 young people about issues of gender, teenage pregnancy and maternal and neonatal deaths.

122. A comprehensive maternal and child healthcare package is being implemented, including family planning, prenatal consultations, vaccination, skilled birth attendance, post-partum consultations, newborn care, emergency obstetric and neonatal care and check-ups to monitor children's growth and development. The package has helped to reduce maternal and child mortality.

123. Angola has a strategic plan on sexual and reproductive health that aims to raise awareness of this topic among adolescents, including girls with disabilities. A comprehensive action strategy for adolescents' and young people's health was adopted in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, USAID, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Social Action, the Family and the Advancement of Women and the media.

124. Between 2017 and 2022, life expectancy rose from 58 to 62 years; under-5 mortality dropped from 167 to 75 and under-1 mortality from 102 to 50 per 1,000 live births; and maternal mortality fell from 274 to 222 per 100,000 live births. Access to primary healthcare increased from 25 per cent to 70 per cent and the number of physicians per 10,000 population rose from 0.28 to 2.4. These indicators show that there have been substantial improvements in medical care, maternal and child health and nutrition, and the fight against major endemic diseases.

125. In relation to abortion legislation, the Criminal Code emphasizes the protection of life but provides for exceptions to the offence of termination of pregnancy in accordance with international human rights standards. The issue of abortion was widely debated during the public consultations on the development of the Criminal Code. Ultimately, it was decided that abortion would be treated as an offence, especially after 16 weeks' gestation (art. 154). The penalty ranges from 2 to 8 years' imprisonment, in defence of intrauterine life, but article 156 provides for three exceptions in which abortion is permitted, provided that it is requested or consented to by the pregnant woman: when the woman's life is at risk, when the fetus is unviable or when the pregnancy is the result of an offence.

D. Right to education (Recommendations 179–197)

126. The right to education is enshrined in the Constitution (art. 79) and in the Framework Act on the Education and Teaching System,³¹ which ensures universal and free access to basic primary education. In the National Development Plan, education is treated as a priority for the country's development. As for the budget, despite the global financial crisis, the amounts allocated to the education sector have increased in recent years.

127. The availability of school infrastructure has increased significantly in recent years. Between 2018 and 2023, 772 schools were built and 313 were rehabilitated, for a total of 9,464 classrooms, of which 7,171 were newly built and 2,293 were rehabilitated.

128. To strengthen the system, various projects and programmes are being implemented, such as United for Early Childhood; Empowerment of Adolescents and Learning for All; and a scholarship programme designed to encourage the completion of lower secondary education, mainly among girls, through the award of an annual scholarship that will benefit 900,000 students in the coming years, including 630,000 girls.

129. The number of out-of-school children has been reduced by 40 per cent. To reduce school dropout rates, a school lunch programme is being carried out under the responsibility of municipal governments. It currently benefits 27.3 per cent of the pupils enrolled in primary education.

130. The number of teachers has increased considerably in recent years thanks to the holding of public competitive examinations; it currently stands at 220,000.

131. In higher education, the number of students enrolled at the undergraduate level has risen from 261,214 in 2018 to 332,649 in the 2023/24 academic year (of whom 50.13 per cent are female).

132. In recent years, legislative measures, programmes, policies and strategies have been adopted to guarantee full access to the right to education. They include the Acceleration Plan to Step Up Young Adult Literacy and Education; the Curriculum Adaptation Programme (2018–2025), which allowed for the inclusion of national languages in the curriculum of the education system; the National Strategy for the Delivery of Education to Nomadic Groups and Ethnic Minorities in Angola; and the Adolescent Girls' Education Project, among others.

133. To ensure that girls are not left out of the education system and to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, the Ministry of Education has established a Human Rights Coordination Commission. The goal is to empower girls in school, promote access and retention, assist adolescent mothers and raise the awareness of parents and the community, including traditional leaders, with a view to changing attitudes towards child marriage and forced marriage. In addition, sex education has been included in primary and secondary school curricula.

Literacy

134. To reduce illiteracy rates, the Action Plan to Step Up Adult Literacy is being implemented in collaboration with public entities and private companies. In addition, the Youth and Adult Literacy and Education Programme is being carried out, in which the majority of participants (70 per cent) are women and adolescents.

135. To combat illiteracy among women, the Ministry of Education has extended the Second Chance Programme.

Human rights education

136. One of the pillars of the National Human Rights Strategy is the promotion of a culture of human rights, based on agreements and protocols with educational institutions at all levels and including various sectors, such as health, among others. A national human rights education policy is now being developed.

137. Human rights are included in the curriculum starting from the first cycle, specifically under the subject “Moral and civic education”.

138. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has signed agreements with 15 institutions of higher education for the inclusion of the subject of human rights in different courses. Currently, four universities – Belas, Lusitana, Catholic and Methodist – offer a master’s degree in human rights.

VI. Rights of specific persons or groups

A. Women (Recommendations 198–235)

139. Angola has made progress in the implementation of women’s rights and gender equality, demonstrating its recognition of the Government’s responsibility to adopt and implement policies to promote opportunities in all areas of political, economic, social and cultural life for women and men.

140. The National Development Plan sets out specific actions with respect to women, with a view to promoting equal opportunities and enhancing their role in the family, society, politics, the economy and business and achieving the sustainable empowerment of young women and rural women.

141. Gender-responsive budgeting, introduced into the budget rules by Presidential Decree No. 195/21, offers a significant opportunity to promote participation and the inclusion of gender in the management of public finances.

Measures to combat domestic violence

142. Act No. 25/11 of 14 July 2011, the Domestic Violence Act, is currently under review, with the implementation of an extensive public consultation process. The amended Criminal Code strengthens accountability by including broader and more specific legal provisions and increased penalties for violent offences, discrimination, sexual abuse and procurement for sexual relations by false pretences, among others.

143. As a result of information and awareness campaigns, the number of complaints has increased in recent years.³²

144. For the reduction of gender-based violence and the protection of victims, the toll-free hotline 15020 is in operation, in addition to hotline 111 of the Comprehensive Public Safety Centre and hotline 15015 – SOS Minor, created for the reporting of cases of violence against minors. In addition, specific departments of the National Police and family counselling centres at the municipal and district levels deal with possible cases in person.

145. Another available resource is the Domestic Violence Data and Information Platform,³³ which facilitates the collection and processing of information and the follow-up of cases.

146. The Domestic Violence Act establishes the status of victims as a protection measure that guarantees access to shelters, preferential attention for the taking of evidence by the competent authorities, free public or private institutional care, issuance of a declaration of the status of domestic violence victim and protection for the victim and her family and loved ones in cases of threat or risk, as determined by the competent authorities. In addition, the National Development Plan includes a support and protection programme for victims of violence.

Participation in public life

147. Despite challenges, women's representation in decision-making positions has made significant progress in recent years. For the first time, women are serving in positions of great importance: the offices of Vice-President, President of the National Assembly and President of the Constitutional Court. The Ombudsperson is a woman. The Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Court and the Court of Accounts have women as Vice-Presidents. In the current legislature, the share accounted for by female deputies is the largest in history (37.7 per cent). The Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola, the party that won the elections, observed gender parity in its candidate list, with women making up 50 per cent of the candidates, exceeding the 30 per cent quota established by the Political Parties Act.³⁴

148. As of March 2024, women's employment rate was 59.3 per cent, lower than that of men, which was 62.1 per cent.

Measures to combat stereotypes and harmful practices

149. The Government is fully committed to the elimination of harmful practices and stereotypes, such as early marriage and early pregnancy, female genital mutilation, accusations of witchcraft and other practices, which are legally prohibited by the Family Code and the Domestic Violence Act. To prevent such practices in traditional communities, the national campaign "United Against Early Pregnancy and Early Marriage" is being implemented.

150. Studies show that female genital mutilation is not a traditional cultural practice in Angola. Nonetheless, measures to prevent acts that violate the physical, sexual or psychological integrity, or the right to life, of women and girls are being strengthened, in view of migration flows in the region. In addition, these practices are penalized under the Criminal Code (art. 160), with penalties ranging from 2 to 10 years' imprisonment.

151. The Advertising Act³⁵ prohibits any type of advertising for pornography or advertising that associates women with stereotypical, discriminatory or humiliating behaviour or with conduct offensive to public morals and decency.

152. Through the Social Action and Family Promotion Programme and the "Space for Values" project, from 2021 to 2023, awareness-raising activities were carried out with the participation of 41,811 people, 58 per cent of whom were women.

Rural women

153. The National Development Plan includes actions aimed at creating favourable conditions for rural women based on the results of the National Forum to Survey Rural Women (2014). It also includes the National Programme to Support Rural Women, which encourages women to obtain title to their land.

B. Children (Recommendations 236–259)

154. As part of the implementation of its 11 commitments for children, the Government has been striving to protect children through the National Institute for Children and the Programme for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child.

155. Children's participation is ensured through children's forums in schools, shelters and communities, as well as meetings and assemblies. The Children's Parliament, where children debate among themselves and question representatives of government institutions on various issues, has been reactivated. This has enabled the authorities to gather the opinions of children throughout the country and take them into consideration.

Review of the Family Code

156. The minimum age for marriage is 18 years. In exceptional cases, boys as young as 16 and girls as young as 15 may be authorized to marry if this is found to be the best solution in view of the circumstances of the case and taking into account the best interests of the minors concerned. Authorization must be given by the parents or guardians or by a court. This provision is under review. Angola recorded few official cases of child marriage from 2017 to 2021: one in Malanje, one in Lunda Sul, five in Benguela, four in Namibe and five in Luanda.

Protection from violence and corporal punishment

157. The protection of children from violence is provided for in article 80 of the Constitution, the Child Protection and Comprehensive Development Act and the Criminal Code, which defines offences against physical and psychological integrity and establishes penalties of 2 to 6 years' imprisonment for child abuse, which, depending on other criminal law provisions, may be aggravated.

158. In 2021, flow charts and standard procedures were adopted for the care of child victims of violence.

159. The 15015 complaint line, run by the National Institute for Children, is confidential, free and anonymous and can be used by anyone who knows of a violation of children's rights.

160. The most common forms of violence against children are family abandonment, child labour, physical violence and sexual violence. The least common are trafficking in persons, abduction and neglect.³⁶

161. Through the national campaign to prevent and combat sexual violence against children, 2,075,213 people were informed about this issue in the period from March 2021 to March 2022.

Elimination of child labour

162. The proportion of children involved in child labour is 23 per cent, according to the 2015–2016 multiple indicator health survey.

163. To combat this practice, the authorities adopted the national plan of action for the elimination of child labour (2021–2025), the goal of which is to take effective, immediate and integrated measures to eradicate child labour.

164. The follow-up commission for the plan and its partners are working to reduce the number of cases nationwide through awareness-raising activities, outreach campaigns, case follow-up and protection of victims. There are provincial secretariats in Cuanza Sul, Cuanza Norte, Huambo, Namibe and Uige.

165. The recruitment of children under 18 years of age by non-State groups in armed conflicts is prohibited and criminalized.

C. Persons with disabilities (Recommendations 263 and 264)

166. In recent years, measures to eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities and to ensure their access to health, education and other services have been strengthened, inter alia through the Accessibility Act and the National Policy on Inclusion-Oriented Special Education.

167. The Ministry of Education, through the National Institute for Special Education, enrolled 44,919 students with disabilities in primary and secondary education in the 2023/24 school year. There are 1,644 inclusive schools with 292 classrooms equipped with multifunctional resources. In addition, 25 women and girls with physical and intellectual disabilities have participated in literacy projects.

168. Other relevant actions to strengthen access to education for children with disabilities include the establishment of partnerships with associations of and for persons with disabilities in the fields of education and continuous training of teachers; training of 150 teachers (100 in sign language and 50 in Braille); conduct of a study on sexual and reproductive health for 60 hard-of-hearing girls in five provinces; production of Braille versions of 60 information booklets and brochures, including the Mother and Child Notebook; and production of 5,000 copies of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

169. For the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, the Inclusion and Support Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2023–2027³⁷ and the Support and Protection Plan for Persons with Albinism 2023–2027³⁸ were adopted.

D. Ethnic and linguistic minorities (Recommendations 261–263)

170. Ethnic and cultural minorities are protected under several programmes of the executive branch. In 2018, the National Directorate for Communities and Institutions under Traditional Authorities was created in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with the aim of coordinating public policies for minority groups. A bill on the languages of Angola is in the process of being adopted.

171. The National Development Plan includes priority actions in the field of cultural policy, such as supporting traditional communities, especially the Khoisan, and ethnic minorities in the provinces of Namibe, Huila and Cuando Cubango, and a programme for the study and support of traditional communities, under which a comprehensive study will be conducted on ethnolinguistic groups.

172. The general State budget includes funding specifically earmarked for the study and support of traditional communities, especially the Khoisan and other minority groups.

173. In relation to the recognition of minority communities' ownership and use of land, the State respects and protects the land rights of rural communities in accordance with the Land Act. It should be clarified that guaranteeing the protection of minorities does not mean requiring that they become sedentary, although it is important that they demonstrate a need for ownership, occupation and use rights in respect of rural community lands.

E. Migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons (Recommendations 265–270)

174. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers are treated with dignity and their rights are respected. In addition, the authorities have strengthened training on basic human rights rules for police officers, representatives of law enforcement agencies and traditional authorities working in border areas.

175. The repatriation of refugees is regulated by the legal regime for refugees,³⁹ which establishes principles and procedures for the treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring the protection of their rights in accordance with international conventions such as

the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

176. By law, the State must accord to refugees the most favourable treatment provided for in national legislation and in the international treaties to which Angola is a party and must respect the principle of non-refoulement.

177. Currently, 52,659 citizens of different nationalities are registered with the National Council for Refugees as being under international protection: 16,171 refugees, 30,133 asylum-seekers and 6,335 prima facie refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,209 men, 1,295 women and 3,851 children), who are now living in the Lóvua camp in Lunda Norte Province and awaiting voluntary repatriation.

178. Since July 2023, the process of biometric registration of refugees and asylum-seekers has been under way, with support from refugee communities, NGOs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

179. Births to foreign nationals are registered, but this does not imply the attribution of Angolan nationality; the purpose is to facilitate access to services such as healthcare and education. The Government, in collaboration with United Nations agencies, provides protection to the minor children of refugees from the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has registered them for the purposes of school enrolment and medical care. Since 2019, 3,273 children and adolescents have been enrolled in school (including 1,592 girls).

180. Angola is also registering Angolans living abroad, most of whom are former refugees in Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, to ensure that they are not at risk of statelessness.

181. All operations to verify the legality of foreigners' residency are carried out with strict respect for human dignity and human rights.

VII. Noted recommendations

182. Angola took note of 11 recommendations:

(a) Establishment of a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (recommendations 49, 52, 55, 61);

(b) Standing invitation to all special rapporteurs to visit Angola (recommendations 26 and 28);

(c) Joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (recommendation 78);

(d) Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (recommendations 18, 19, 20, 21).

183. Despite having only taken note of the recommendation to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Angola has in fact joined the Initiative and has already submitted its initial report, in 2023.

184. Regarding invitations to human rights mechanisms, in the course of this cycle Angola received visits from the Special Rapporteurs on migrants and leprosy and the Independent Expert on foreign debt. Invitations have been extended to the Independent Expert on albinism and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (see para. 11).

VIII. Status of implementation of voluntary pledges

185. On the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Angola presented its voluntary pledges, which are all being implemented:

(a) Submission of reports (to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture);

- (b) Invitation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;
- (c) Conclusion of the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which Angola has already signed;
- (d) Continuation of the process of adopting the National Education Plan for a Culture of Human Rights as an annex to the National Human Rights Strategy, on the basis of input requested from civil society organizations in an inclusive manner.

IX. Challenges and prospects

186. The main challenges this cycle are:

- (a) Implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy and related strategies;
- (b) Ratification of conventions that have already been signed and preparation of the respective reports;
- (c) Continued efforts to improve the situation of human rights. In this regard, the Government will work with its traditional multilateral and bilateral partners in relation to each recommendation.

Notes

- ¹ Creada por la Resolución del Consejo de Ministros n° 121/09, de 26 de diciembre y actualizada por el Despacho Presidencial n° 29/14, de 26 de marzo.
- ² *Provedor da Justiça* en portugués.
- ³ Puede ser consultado en el site del Ministerio de la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (<http://www.servicos.minjurdh.gov.ao>).
- ⁴ Realizado el 10 de noviembre de 2020, con la participación de más de 100 personas en formato híbrido (presencial y on line), representantes de diferentes instituciones públicas y de OSC.
- ⁵ Resolución de la Asamblea Nacional (AN) n° 38/19 de 16 de julio.
- ⁶ Resolución de la Asamblea Nacional n° 26-B/91, de 27 de diciembre.
- ⁷ Resolución de la Asamblea Nacional n° 35/19, de 9 de julio.
- ⁸ Artículo 26° de la CRA.
- ⁹ Ver párrafos 184 de este Informe.
- ¹⁰ Decreto Presidencial n° 239/21 de 29 de septiembre.
- ¹¹ Decreto Presidencial n° 225/23 de 30 de noviembre.
- ¹² Actualizada por el Despacho Presidencial n° 130/24, de 11 de noviembre.
- ¹³ En 2021 hubo una Revisión Constitucional (Ley n° 18/21, de 16 de agosto, Ley de Revisión Constitucional), que, entre otras alteraciones, revocó el artículo 192° relativo al Defensor del Pueblo y colocó en vigor el artículo 212-A.
- ¹⁴ Ver gráfico 1 en el Anexo II.
- ¹⁵ Informes disponibles en el site: <https://provedordejustica.ao>.
- ¹⁶ Informaciones específicas sobre los casos pueden ser consultadas en los informes periódicos de Angola sobre la implementación de la CEDAW (https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FAGO%2F8&Lang=en), de la Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FAGO%2F1&Lang=en) y sobre el Protocolo Adicional a la Carta Africana de los Derechos Humanos y de los Pueblos sobre los Derechos de las Mujeres en África (<https://achpr.au.int/en/taxonomy/term/190>).
- ¹⁷ Para más informaciones, ver Informe Inicial de Implementación de la CAT presentado por Angola: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CAT%2FC%2FAGO%2F1&Lang=en.
- ¹⁸ Decreto Presidencial n° 38/14, de 19 de febrero.
- ¹⁹ Decreto Presidencial n° 81/20, de 25 de marzo.
- ²⁰ Decreto Ejecutivo n° 230/14, de 27 de junio y su Reglamento n° 244/14, de 4 de julio.
- ²¹ Ley n.° 12/16, de 12 de agosto.
- ²² Decreto Presidencial n° 169/24, de 19 de julio.
- ²³ Ver Gráfico 2, anexo II.
- ²⁴ Ver Gráfico 3, anexo II.
- ²⁵ Decreto Presidencial n° 235/19 de 22 de julio.

- ²⁶ Decreto Presidencial n° 31/20, de 14 de febrero.
- ²⁷ Decreto Ejecutivo Conjunto n° 455/21, de 2 de septiembre, MiNINT, MINJUSDH, Ministerio de la Salud, Ministerio de Educación y Ministerio de la Acción Social, Familia y Promoción de la Mujer.
- ²⁸ Decreto Ejecutivo n° 179/22 de 1 de abril.
- ²⁹ Ver gráfico 4, anexo II.
- ³⁰ Decreto Presidencial n° 295/20, de 18 de noviembre.
- ³¹ Ley n° 17/16, de 7 de octubre.
- ³² Ver Gráfico 5, Anexo II.
- ³³ <http://violenciadomestica.ao>.
- ³⁴ Ver Tabla 1, anexo II.
- ³⁵ Ley n° 9/17, de 13 de marzo.
- ³⁶ Ver datos en Gráfico 7, Anexo II.
- ³⁷ Decreto Presidencial n° 217/23, de 31 de octubre.
- ³⁸ Decreto Presidencial n° 193/23, de 9 de octubre.
- ³⁹ Ley n.° 10/15, de 17 de junio.
-