



**Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND  
PROMOTION OF WOMEN**

**AT THE 48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN**

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## **MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO PEACE PROCESS**

Madame Chairperson,

It is a great honour to address this 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Status of Women on behalf of the Angolan government, and to participate in the important debate about women's participation in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts and consolidation of post-war peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Women's involvement in peace issues steamed from their experiences from colonization in one hand, and on the other hand, as victims of armed conflicts. During the liberation war against colonialism, women participated as advisers, educators of the soldiers who helped with the logistics, cooked, transported weapons and medicines, participated in health care services and later on became freedom fighters themselves. This led them to organize under an umbrella association to fight for their rights and participating in regional and international activities, making their voices heard for peace.

After independence, Angola faced a long period of armed conflict where women and children were mostly affected.

Even though in liberated areas and in the cities, women express their solidarity with the faith of their compatriots. They organized peace marches and protests, activities with the aim of promoting culture of tolerance and understanding, mobilized the communities and developed other peace building strategies and various times asked for a place in peace negotiations agenda.

Despite the recognition given to women for their efforts and involvement in peace promotion, they seldom had an equal participation in decisions to negotiate peace and resolution of conflicts even though they are the first to reach across ethnic and religious divides in order to rebuilt communities and families torn apart due to the culture of violence.

The participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspective in both formal and informal peace process are crucial in the establishment of sustainable peace.

Women cannot voice their concerns if they are not consulted or if they are not involved in peace negotiations. Armed conflicts are highly gendered and the experiences of women during war are different from war.

Therefore, peace process must have the participation of women in equal circumstances.

The equal participation of women in peace process has drawn the attention of the international community. It is clearly addressed in the Beijing Platform.

Madame Chairperson,

The United Nation Resolution 1325 (2000) recognizes the impact of conflicts on women and calls on the governments to ensure measures to protect and respect women's human rights. The denial of this equality perpetrates injustice against more than half of the worlds population contrary to democratic principles, and promotes among men harmful habits and attitudes which are many times transmitted from family environment to working place, to political sphere, and finally to international relations. There are no moral, political, or biological fundaments that justify these practices.

Only when women will be accepted in all fields of human activity, inequality of circumstances will they be in a position to talk about the creation of adequate moral and psychological environments from which international peace will come to light.

Also, lack of insignificant women's access to the information systems and technologies, stereo types that discriminate women, hard home work, reduced economic power, high rates of illiteracy and poverty, lack of access to resources and inadequate participation in decision making bodies, leads to a non-effective women's participation in conflicts negotiation and conflict resolution.

In this regard, the United Nations through its relevant bodies and resolutions must continue to play an important role in strengthening women's position in society as a whole in order to allow for a more equitable participation in all aspects of life including peace process negotiations.

Madame Chairperson,

Actions for peace start in the family environment and proceed to local and international stages. The family is the fabric of the human personality, as it establishes the conduct norms and cultural values which determine the behavior of the individuals.

It is within the family where children, adolescents, women and men are educated on the basis of moral norms, where they learn to live together to tolerate, to share and to be equal in difference.

Madame Chairperson,

Gender equality is the only crucial factor for a harmonized society. If gender equality is omitted, no country will have peace, and will ask eternally for Beijing Plan of Action.

Thank you.