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Human Rights Council – 14th session: Item 6 – Universal Periodic Review – Angola
Oral statement delivered by Conectas Direitos Humanos

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,

Conectas, in partnership with 15 local Angolan human rights organizations¹, congratulates the Angolan State for the presentation at the UPR working group session, which started a landmark of hope to the building of a society based upon the rule of law and sustainable democracy.

To this end, we wish to echo some key recommendations contained in the final report, and request the Angolan State to take the following measures:

- Implement the recommendations of the report involving civil society organisations, with a focus on women's participation;
- Enable a free working environment for human rights defenders, especially in problematic regions such as Cabinda province;
- Protect the victims of forced evictions and house demolition, giving them suitable human living conditions;
- Protect and promote the rights of the most vulnerable groups, especially the SAN indigenous communities, in particular by fully including them in poverty reduction programmes;
- Accede to and ratify international instruments mentioned in the recommendations of this report;
- Enact a law on protection of all human rights defenders.

Mr. Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,

In the long run, special attention should be paid to the issue of poverty reduction, with a focus on land tenure and family support to small-scale agriculture, as one of the effective ways to deal with poverty and destitution. Another area of focus should be education, especially of girls, in rural areas, as well as healthcare improvement according to Southern African Development Community guidelines and protocols.

We recommend that the next State report be written in broad consultation with civil society.

Finally, we call on the Angolan authorities to consider accepting the remaining recommendations of the report and to collaborate with UN bodies and civil society in implementing all of them.

Thank you very much.

Geneva, 10th of June 2010.

¹KITOMAVO, PLATAFORMA MULHRES EM ACÇÃO, AJUDECA, KANDENGUES UNIDOS, ANGOLA 2000, ACADIR, ACC, CMDI, MOSAIKO, VAPA, OMUNGA, NCC, OADEC, ADSA, CCDH.