



Statement by His Excellency Rui Jorge Carneiro
Mangueira, Minister of Justice and Human Rights

On the occasion of adoption of the final report of II Cycle
of the Universal Periodic Review of Angola

Geneva, 19 of March 2015



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Excellence Mr President of the Human Rights Council

Members of the Troika

Dear Ambassadors

Representatives of the civil society

Ladies and gentleman,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Angola I would like to present our best regards, in this final adoption of our report of this second cycle of revision of the UPR.

The Angola UPR report was presented on the 30th of October of 2014, during the 20th session, which was held from the 27th of October to the 7th of November.

During the interactive dialogue 101 states made statements and formulated 226 recommendations which 192 enjoyed support and took note of 34 recommendations.

In general the recommendations formulated are related to ratification of human rights international instrument, reform of the legal framework in conformity to human rights mechanisms, guarantee of legal equality and no-discrimination, access to social security, quality of life, development, health, education, rights of migrants, and other related human rights issues so on.

The observations and recommendations formulated were very valuable and constructive and will contribute largely to the reinforcement of the national mechanisms of promotion and protection of human rights. Indeed, most of the recommendations presented are already being implemented on the many government programs underway.

The Government of Angola decided to take note of the 34 pending recommendations, and would like to make the following clarification.

In relation to the establishment of a National Institution of Human Rights in accordance to the Principles of Paris, we believe that the Ombudsman Office is the National Institution of Human Rights, because it is a public and independent entity, whose objective is the defence of rights, liberties and guarantees of the citizens, through informal means by the law administration institutions.



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In general, the Chart of the Ombudsman Office is in accordance with the Paris Principles relative to duties, responsibilities and constitutional framework.

Regarding the standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs to visit, we would like to clarify that the Republic of Angola is committed to the reinforcement of the cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.

We would like to remind that in the last few years, Government of Angola invited the special rapporteurs of Human Rights defenders, freedom of religion and belief and the working group of arbitrary detention. In the same period,

We also had the honour to welcome the visits of two High Commissioners for Human Rights of the United Nations.

In this moment we are expecting the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and Special Rapporteur on adequate housing. These invitations will be extended this year.

Concerning, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative partnership (EITI), the Government of Angola would like to inform that is considering joining this initiative. In this regard, on 22th December 2014, the President of the Republic of Angola has signed an executive order that creates a working group to evaluate this possibility. As soon as this work is concluded we will inform our position accordingly.

In relation to the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Government of Angola is evaluating its obligations for ratification

Nevertheless the rights protected under this convention will be considered under the ongoing reform of the justice sector.

On the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court we would like to inform that the process is still under consideration.

In addition, Angola as a member of the African Union supports its position on the international criminal court.

The Decriminalization of defamation and related offenses, the Government of Angola believes that freedom of expression is a fundamental right conferred by



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article 40 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, along with the Press Law as well as other international legal instruments ratified by the Republic of Angolan, such as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on its paragraph 3, article 19, since it does not violate the respect of the honour, reputation and image of the private life of citizens.

The restriction indicated in article 19 of the Covenant, like other legal orders, requires the offender (whether or not a journalist) to face charges in criminal proceedings for defamation, slander or similar offenses in accordance with items 3 and 4 of article 40 of the Republic of Angola Constitution and articles 407 and 410 of the Criminal Code, in addition to the possibility of disciplinary and civil proceedings.

We would like to remind that the limitation imposed by the law is to protect the individual interests of the offended citizens and not to violate or restrict the right to freedom of expression, like, in many other countries.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that the noted recommendations will continue to deserve, in the next four years, the special attention of the Republic of Angola.

Once again we would like to thank in behalf of the Government Angola the states that intervned during our UPR and we hope that the interventions in this session of final adoption of the UPR report, whether from member states and observers, or from civil society organizations, will be constructive for the reinforcement of national mechanisms of protection and promotion of Human Rights.

Thank you very much.