

**34th PRESENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - UPR,
GENEVA.**

SOS HABITAT STATEMENT / SOLIDARITY ACTION-ANGOLA

Access to water,

Recommendation No. 143; The Angolan State was recommended to continue its actions to improve the human right to water under United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292 (Bolivia, Plurinational State) and No. 144; On the creation of a strategic plan for water supply and sanitation, especially for Rural Communities (Spain).

In this regard, the Official Speech by the President of the Republic of Angola on 22 March 2019 and by the responsible Minister point out that between 52 and 60% of the Angolan population benefit from drinking water in a universe of over 25 million Angolans. Based the Multi Indicator Health Survey (INE 2015-2016), which is expected to be updated in 2018 and 2019, 54% of the Angolan population has access to drinking water sources, 66% in urban areas and 32% in rural areas. These percentages are currently declining due to the inefficiency of state services, resulting from the financial crisis in which the country has lived since 2014. The situation has aggravated due to the drought which has affected 5 southern provinces of the country: Huila, Namibe, Cunene, Cuando Cubango and Benguela.

The province of Cunene is the most affected by drought with 857,000 people directly affected, 19,539 animals killed and about 54,500 pupils out of school.

We urge the Angolan Authorities to declare a State of Emergency and develop structured programs to end the loss of thousands of livestock and prevent the loss of human lives.

Access to adequate housing

Recommendation 141 Section III.6.4; Ensure that the appropriate housing policy is developed and enforced in accordance with international human rights standards, and in particular with an effective remedy, adequate compensation and assistance to all displaced persons (GERMANY) and Properly apply Resolution prohibiting forced evictions and protecting the rights of the disadvantaged and indigenous (rural) communities (Santa Se) and Promoting and protecting the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State)).

In the Housing sector, House demolitions and forced evictions have considerably decreased. Although the State has built 200 houses for each Municipality, Centrality and Economic Neighborhood, the mechanism of access to such residences is not transparent, as over 5000 families, who had their homes demolished by the local Administration in Luanda, have not yet been relocated or compensated. They continue to live in degrading conditions. There still exist uninhabited dwellings in the centralities and neighbourhoods yet those families that really need it are not assigned.

We acknowledge the Angolan State's concern for the Rural Communities with the creation of the “Minha Terra” program through Presidential Order No. 14/18 of 19 February, approved on 11 May 2018, which establishes the Interministerial Commission for delimitation and recognition of Rural Lands. We recommend that the government includes civil society organisations as representatives of indigenous communities and to monitor and evaluate the process.

Between 2014 and 2018, police and military officers fatally beat up two people while attempting to demolish their homes: A 14-year-old boy named Rufino António and 32-year-old Doroteia. The perpetrators were sentenced to 17, 8 and 2 years of prison respectively.

Religious freedom

Recommendation No. 122 Session II.5.7; demonstrate greater flexibility, tolerance and respect for religious minorities, in order to adjust them to the provisions of the Angolan Constitution as well as the international human rights obligations (CANADA).

Angola enacted the Law of Freedom of Religion, Belief and Worship, which in spite of promoting religious freedoms, makes it difficult for citizens who want to open new churches. The previous law required 500 signatures for a church to be recognized, but the current law requires 60,000 signatures. We recommend that the government recognises and upholds citizens’ freedom of religion by facilitating the entry of other churches.

Churches have a moral and legal obligation to protect the rights of their congregants. It is crucial that religious institutions operate within the confines of the law. In the event that the police investigate and determine that a specific religious institution violated the law, it is important to bring those concerned to account for their actions. However, the police should practice due restraint to avoid harming innocent civilians. The April 16, 2015 case in which heavily armed Rapid Intervention Police officers descended upon Mount Sumi in Caála Municipality Huambo Province, where hundreds of faithful of the 7th-day Adventist Church of the World Light were resulting in the death of 9 police officers and an unconfirmed number of worshippers. We recommend that the government promotes and protects the human rights of citizens and applies the full wrath of the law in cases where law enforcement provokes aggressive behaviour.

We recognize that a great deal of work has been done by the Angolan government but we consider it imperative to look at the concerns raised by civil society with a view of improving the well-being of the impacted populations.