Permanent Mission of

The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

H.E. MRS. ANGELA BRAGAN(ÿA SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

AT THE EXPERTS MEETING
OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OF THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

NEW YORK, 29 JANUARY 2015

820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee of Experts of the Committee on Development Policies,

Distinguished representatives of United Nations agencies and funds,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Angolan Government, I would like to extend our warmest greetings to all in attendance and to thank you for the invitation to attend this meeting where we will discuss Angola's Graduation from the

We are also pleased with this opportunity to interact with the members of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Development Policies to share our point of view on the graduation process, as well as the progress and constraints in the implementation of our national development programs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Angola was included in the list of Least Developed Countries in 1994, during a critical phase of the long period of armed conflict that the country experienced. This conflict ended in 2002; however the consequences of war are still being felt in a variety of areas. Over the past (almost) 13 years of effective peace and political stability, there has been a concerted effort to secure and consolidate peace, normalize and strengthen the democratic process and build the rule of law, which has created ideal conditions for the implementation of other economic and social measures which have made our country one of the world's fastest growing economies in the last 10 years, while at the same time allowing the country to make significant steps in its reconstruction and in promoting the well-being of the Angolan population.

In this connection, in 2010 the Constitution of the Republic of Angola was approved, which like the previous constitutional laws, reaffirms the fundamental principles of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, in accordance with the main international human rights instruments.

Although the current Constitution safeguards and even expands on fundamental freedoms and rights, the last Universal Periodic Human Rights Review, held in Geneva in October 2014, found that Angola still faces some

challenges in this domain, largely as a result of its social fabric's long exposure to armed conflict, which now reflects itself in some weakness and vulnerability of the institutions and bodies of justice that are in the process of strengthening their capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With your permission, I would like to give a brief overview of the major issues referred to in the two reports prepared by the United Nations on Angola's Graduation process.

After an assessment of the cost/benefit aspects of the special support measures

a new cycle the country's history and planning system. The following are key among the major National Objectives set out in the National Development Program 2013-2017: (i) Guaranteeing basic requirements necessary for development; (ii) Improving the quality of life; (iii) Integrating youths in active working life; (iv) Private sector development; (v) Integration of Angola in the international context in a competitive manner.

This Plan, which is centered om the motto of "Stability, Growth and Employment", is the first medium-term plan drawn up within the framework of the country's new constitution and which aims for the modernization and sustainability of development, while focusing on the stability, growth, promotion and appreciation of Angolan citizens. This is because without not only economic, but also political, social and institutional stability, there will be no sustained economic growth and without this, there will be no employment, which is crucial for the redistribution of wealth and the improvement of the quality of life of the population.

Also, as you know, Angola conducted its first population and housing census in
May 2014, and its preliminary results indicate that the country has 24.6 million
inhabitants. The competent bodies in this field continue to work on the analysis
of the data and aim to publish the final results by the end of this year.

We now have a good base to prepare a National Population Policy and the
National Planning and Territorial Development Policy, which are essential to
studying how to improve the enjoyment of economic and social rights for ourof1mul idi6lod4atio

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Considering the objectives of this meeting, I propose that we focus especially on the objective of Guaranteeing Basic Requirements Necessary for Development, as we believe that in general terms, it responds to question of how Angola intends to prepare the transition towards graduation. The Government of Angola believes that the Graduation Process is a natural consequence of gains and successes in the implementation of its Development Plans and Strategies, which will continue to be fully implemented independently of the country's eligibility. We foresee eventual adjustments to prevent the graduation process from posing constraints or obstacles to Angola's natural development process, particularly in the current global economic climate, characterized by sharp decline in oil prices--the country's main export product.

Angola is aware of the great challenges that lie ahead, especially because the country's eligibility for Graduation is founded on the basis of a single criterion, the per capita GNP. In this context, we find that this, combined with the singularities of Angola as a post-conflict country, is sufficient reason to receive increased attention and additional support from international partners, both bilateral and multilateral, so that the country can swiftly make strides in the two remaining eligibility criteria.

Nevertheless, we will continue to work with the United Nations system in the framework of the Graduation Process in light of the next triennial review of the list of LDCs, scheduled for March 2015.