

UPR of ANGOLA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Feb 12, 2010; 1430-1730 hrs

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Angola led by H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Chikoty, State Secretary of External Relations of Angola, and thanks them for the comprehensive and informative National Report and presentation.

2. India acknowledges the challenges and constraints faced by Angola in securing the human rights of its citizens in the wake of a long civil war. These include deactivation of anti-personnel mines, and resettlement and social reintegration of displaced people, refugees, demobilized soldiers and their dependants. We take positive note of the significant progress towards consolidation of peace achieved in the brief period of relative stability of the last few years, namely the holding of multi-party, general elections in 2008, the promulgation of a new Constitution, the strengthening of decentralization of power, robust economic growth and the outlining of strategies for the country's economic and social development, with a special focus on poverty eradication. In 2009, the UN country team noted that, overall, the right to life, liberty and security had improved significantly. Equally noteworthy has been the setting up of the Justice Reform Commission mandated to review, *inter alia*, the domestic legislations to ensure their conformity with international human rights instruments.

Mr. President,

3. We take special note of the increased public investment in the social sector and the considerable impact that it has had in the crucial areas of health-care network and primary school enrolment. With regard to gender equality, impressive progress has been made in women's participation in Parliament and in Government, with women comprising almost a third of the National Assembly - the second highest percentage of women in Parliament within Africa.

Mr. President,

4. In the interest of the process of consolidation of peace, we would encourage Angola to continue to strengthen its justice administration and penal system reforms, and to expand the participation of the civil society, including media, in all policy processes. We urge Angola to consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We request the delegation to share with us information on any additional measures being contemplated by the Government to curb trafficking of children.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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