STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE
ON

ITEM 23: ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND
OTHER DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Representatives,

At the outset, Mr. Chair allow me to congratulate you on your election. We would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election to guide the work of this important Committee during the 68th session of the General Assembly.

Angola aligns itself with the previous statements made by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China and Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chair,

The discussion of eradication of poverty and other development issues is timely and crucial. We all know that poverty is a very complex phenomenon. It is not only related to low income but also to low achievement in areas such as employment, education, housing, health and nutrition, among others. Poverty manifests itself in different forms and involves issues of economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions. Moreover, its root causes have to be tackled at all levels.

Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development in developing countries, in particular the LDCs and Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the most vulnerable groups within countries, in particular women and children. Angola recognizes the importance of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in poverty eradication and the attainment of the MDGs.

Also, it should be noted that reducing poverty is not just about having the right economic policies; it is also about pursuing appropriate social policies and types of politics that elevate the interests of the poor in public policy.

Mr. Chair,

Accordingly, in order to accelerate poverty reduction, Angola, located in a sub-region where women and children constitute the population segment the most affected by this scourge, is not untouched by the phenomenon of poverty. To address the situation, the Angolan government has undertaken a wide range of programs in the short, medium, and long term, which are embodied in sectoral

These programs focus on the promotion of the non-oil sector with the main objective of generating employment for youths and resources capable of supporting the enormous challenges we face today in education, health, industry, agriculture, energy, among others.

In the education sector, the Executive Branch has been carrying out an educational reform since 2006 with satisfactory results. The mentioned reform has complemented technical and professional capacity-building programs, and also programs to improve the quality of higher education in order to sustainably generate professionals for other important and priority sectors.

Under the national strategy for food security, the government has undertaken various activities in collaboration with FAO, IFAD and NEPAD, namely the rehabilitation and construction of agricultural development hubs, cattle-breeding centers, allocation of funds for the promotion of family and industrial agriculture, among others, in order to ensure a substantial decrease in food imports.

Mr. Chair,

To accelerate poverty reduction in Angola, the government completed a pilot census in all provinces, which will be complemented by the population census in 2014. This upcoming census will help greatly in the sustained implementation of the various programs geared to access to health, education, employment, decent housing and many other basic necessities.

Alongside the above, a one-stop shop for fostering entrepreneurship has been created to grant micro credit, which has streamlined and greatly benefited the creation of jobs for young people and rural women at the local and national levels. This measure undertaken by the Angolan government has provided greater control of income once confined to the informal market, and has also contributed to the increase of GDP.

We also note that the National Health for All Program has given opportunities to build and renovate hospitals, with particular emphasis on rural and peri-urban areas. Such constructions has contributed to combat the spread of infectious diseases responsible for maternal and child mortality.

Finally, I reiterate Angola’s support to the efforts of the international community to combat extreme hunger and poverty at a global level. And we also recall the required fulfillment of various commitments made by developed countries, such as
Official Development Assistance, and the implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action, among others.

Thank you.