STATEMENT BY

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE

ON

ITEM 65: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILDREN

NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2013

Check Against Delivery
Mr. Chairman,

Angola aligns itself with the statement delivered by Malawi on behalf of SADC.

The Republic of Angola welcomes the Secretary-General’s reports on the Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Girl Child and the report on the follow-up to the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action titled: “A world fit for Children”, which was adopted during the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children in 2002.

Angola wishes to also commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the progress achieved in advancing the children and armed conflict agenda, including the mainstreaming of child protection issues within the United Nations system.

We also extend our appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children for the presentation of the annual report on progress and challenges on violence against children.

Mr. Chairman,

Due to its many complexities, tackling child poverty has remained one of the biggest obstacles to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. Poverty deeply affects the lives of children, threatening their survival, their development and their right to health, adequate food, nutrition and education. Poverty also has a negative impact on children’s right to participation and their protection from violence, harm and exploitation.

Mr. Chairman,

Angola has intensified its efforts to include priorities for children and their rights in its national development plans and policies. The Millennium Development Goals Agenda, as well as the Paris Declaration and greater demand for civil society participation have
helped in the prioritization of children’s rights, as evidenced in the review of poverty reduction strategy papers conducted since the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 61/146.

Nevertheless, these plans and programs need adequate resource commitments and consistent funding flows to deliver and improve children’s rights outcomes as well as to better integrate children’s rights indicators into national planning and monitoring processes.

We would also like to stress the progress that has been made by our Government on the issue of child labour as a means of achieving Millennium Development Goal 1, on poverty eradication.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As a reflection of our commitment to promote and protect the rights of children, the Angolan government has adopted national laws which establish the Angolan National Committee on Children, regulated by a Presidential Decree, as well as a National Plan of Action to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

Angola is working to ensure the full protection of children’s rights in order to grant them the full and permanent enjoyment of the principles established in national law and international treaties. However, despite our efforts, there remain structural and social constraints that affect the full development of children.

The Government of Angola has assumed the following commitments concerning children: increasing life expectancy, food security, free birth registration, early childhood education, primary education, juvenile justice, prevention and reduction of the impact of HIV on families and children, prevention and mitigation of violence against children, family competence, promotion and protection of children in media networks, among others.
Together with UNICEF and some NGOs, the Government is implementing an integrated program to respond to child malnutrition. Under this program, more than 2,000 activists were trained to conduct screening of children with signs of malnutrition in communities, and the program has benefited more than 250,000 children.

In this sense, the partnership between the Government and UNICEF has resulted in the improvement of the living conditions of children, as evidenced by the reduction of mortality in children under five, in halting the transmission of the polio virus and the improvement of children's access to primary education, all of which will count towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Our Government is also investing heavily in new education infrastructure, giving particular attention to early childhood development programs and training of new teachers and social workers in all the 18 provinces of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Birth registration of children is one of the top priorities for the government of Angola. My delegation believes that birth registration should be free and universal. To help accelerate registration of children in Angola, my government has adopted a Decree on free birth registration for children.

With respect to the follow-up of the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, Angola has made significant progress in terms of child survival. Mortality in children under 5 has fallen from 63 to 51 deaths per 1,000 live births.

To conclude, allow me to stress that as the world continues to articulate the post-2015 development agenda, our Government continues to consider principles and actions to further advance and fulfill commitments on the rights of all children.

Thank you.