

SPEECH OF H.E. DR. BRANCA ESPIRITO SANTO, MINISTER OF URBANISM AND HOUSING OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, ON THE 26TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Mr. President of the Governing Council,
Honourable Ministers,
Executive Director of UN- Habitat,
Excellencies, Ambassadors,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Angola has a population of about 26,000,000, of which 62% (16,153,987) lives in urban areas, and 38% (9,635,037) live in rural areas, being 48% male and 52% female. One third of this population (6,000,000) live in the city of Luanda, the capital of the country, with an urbanization rate of 5%, which represents the greatest challenge that we have ahead of us.

Given this framework, a new paradigm must be adopted in the approach to the strategy of the national policy of urban development, since the growth of human settlements beyond the challenges already mentioned, also brings with it an opportunity to foster continuous and inclusive economic growth.

Therefore, the Government of Angola created the National Urbanism Housing and Program (PNUH), which continues to mobilize and involve public institutions and private agents, as well as society in general, in order to have active and sustained participation in the materialization of public policies and strategies in urban planning and housing, bearing in mind that sustainable urban development and housing are at the centre of the national development agenda.

Therefore, and in order to minimize the problems caused by this situation, Angola financed the presence of UN-HABITAT in the country since October 2015, for technical assistance to the Ministry of Urbanism and Housing, and in partnership with them we are preparing the National Urban Policy, which will be a juridical, institutional, socio-economic and spatial platform for the development of strategies and programs aligned with the New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, especially the Sustainable Development Goal #11.

Thus, one aspect to consider is to ensure that the policy that is being formulated can be implemented and, therefore, ensure the financial and

human resources, the institutional capacity and the legal support for the implementation of the policy.

UN-Habitat participates and supports in the elaboration of the "Country Program" document for the period 2017-2021 (in the approval phase), a joint mechanism with the Government of Angola for the implementation, management and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda as well as raising funds to finance on-going projects and programs in the country. This document is in line with the mandate of the Angolan Executive and the United Nations Partnership Framework in Angola.

It is not sustainable, however, that the presence of UN-HABITAT, especially in developing countries, is only done through project financing. The institutional strengthening of UN-HABITAT is needed to address the challenges of rapid urbanization in Africa and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in developing countries.

Angola has contributed to this, but we are convinced that the responsibility of strengthening UN-HABITAT's capacity to provide technical assistance at country level is common to all but differentiated, and there must be a greater role for countries with greater funding capacity, not only with financial resources, but also with human resources, support for technical staff training, exchange of expertise and know-how, among others.

Therefore, We must encourage all levels of governance, as well as civil society, to be involved in commitments for sustainable urban development, by promoting a territorial and urban planning that guarantees the sustainable use of land, natural resources, social inclusion and eradication of poverty.

To conclude, we would like to congratulate the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and his team for the success of the Habitat III Conference.

I thank you.