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STATEMENT BY

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OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THIRD COMMITTEE

OF THE 60th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 71(b), (c), (e)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

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Mr. Chairman,

Speaking on the agenda item related to human rights questions, I wish to express my Delegation's gratitude to the Secretary-General, as well as to all special rapporteurs, for having presented their outstanding reports.

Indeed, the mechanism of special procedures constitute a very important element in the implementation of international human rights standards by providing an objective assessment of human rights and by making recommendations for strengthening human rights protection at the national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Promotion of human rights has been one of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations, along with its other key objectives such as development, peace and security.

The decision taken during the Summit regarding the need of upgrading the Commission on Human Rights has confirmed the importance of reflecting the centrality of the Human Rights in the UN System. Indeed, much has been achieved over the years regarding the protection and promotion of human rights, including in adopting a number of landmark international human rights conventions.

However, at same time, there remain many challenges and tasks facing all of us in achieving the balanced realization of these conventions to improve the human rights situation around the world.

If we are to achieve improvements in the promotion of human rights, further actions will be needed. For instance, the assessment presented before the Committee by the Special Rapporteur

on the right to food, is demonstrative enough that approach in dealing with the human rights as they laid down in International Conventions, should be understood within a broader framework, responding to the concept according to which peace, development and human rights are mutually reinforcing.

Indeed, fighting poverty is also about promoting human rights. For this reason, we are of the view of those Delegations thinking that, overemphasizing certain human rights while downgrading others equally important, has proven to be a wrong approach that led us to the selectivity and double standard, when dealing with the special procedures of the human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

The primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights lies with the states themselves.

As far as we are concerned, Angola has been exerting sustained efforts to this end, going through a comprehensive reform process in view to align fully the national legislation and its implementation, with the international norms on human rights.

As for international instruments, Angola has become party to the most important Human Rights Conventions of the United Nations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and their protocols.

Angola has submitted its initial and periodical reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Articles 21 and 43 of the Angolan Constitution ensure that the International Human Rights Conventions ratified by Angola have the force of domestic law.

Indeed, in legislative terms, these provisions give us a strong framework for the protection of human rights, including for the freedom of expression and information, as well as freedom of association, that we all agree are an indispensable framework for the human rights defenders carrying out their activities.

Furthermore, by adopting the National Strategy to Combat Poverty, we have made a very far reaching step forward, particularly, in meeting the MDGs 1 on poverty and hunger; MDG 2 on universal primary education; MDG 4, on infant mortality; and *MDG 5* and 6, on maternal health, and on fighting malaria and other diseases, that we do consider the foundation for a full enjoyment of all human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

The Commission on Human Rights has been criticized, sometimes rightly, for being selective, politicized, ineffective, and for overlapping with the work of 3rd committee and treaty bodies. Now, we have the opportunity to make a real difference, by acting on the clear directives given to us by the Summit.

However, if the new Council is to succeed in promoting the full enjoyment of all human rights, the International Community, the Council itself, as well as the mandate holders of the Mechanism of Special Procedures, have to admit that:

- Promotion of mutual understanding through dialogue on each countries specific situation is crucial;
- Cooperating with the country concerned in an effective and transparent manner, with a view to enhancing human rights protection, is mandatory; and no less important of these two remarks, is the need for strengthen and increasing of the resources of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which we believe will be crucial in better discharging its functions, especially, those regarding technical assistance.

To conclude, I would like to seize this occasion to thank, through you, Mr. Chairman, the High Commissioner for her report presented to the current session of the General Assembly. We see merit in the call by the High Commissioner for a shift from standard setting, to implementation. We are grateful for this vision.

I thank you.