



Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**16th Session of the Conference of States Parties
to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
(COSP16)**

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820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, and the members of the Bureau on your election.

We thank the Secretariat for the documents presented at this Conference.

Mr. Chair,

In 2006, we committed ourselves through the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to achieving a world where persons with disabilities would enjoy equal rights and opportunities,

This international legal framework has been reinforced by the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy launched by the Secretary-General in 2019 to achieve a transformative and lasting change in disability inclusion.

Despite the progress made since then, much remains to be done, fundamentally regarding the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict.

Excellencies,

The number of people with disabilities in Angola is currently estimated at more than six hundred thousand, mainly due to four decades of internal conflict.

Allow us to highlight some of the progress that has been achieved in the country in the recent years concerning the social inclusion of people with disabilities:

- **First:** Angola ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa to promote, protect and ensure that all individuals with disabilities can fully and equally enjoy all human rights and ensure respect for their inherent dignity of the human person.

As a State Party, the Angolan legal framework encompasses the Law on Persons with Disabilities, the Accessibility Law, as well as presidential decrees that regulate quotas on vacancies and procedures for hiring people with disabilities and on the

strategy for the social inclusion and protection of children with disabilities.

- Second: Existing legislation not only promotes and protects the exercise of the human rights of people with disabilities, but also provides guidance and sexual and reproductive education programs for them.
- Third: To enhance these rights, the Government recently adopted the Strategy for the Rights of People with Disabilities, integrated in the National Program for Inclusion and Accessibility 2022-2027 and the National Program to support people with disabilities and albinism.
- Fourth: With the implementation of the Convention, improvements were achieved in the fields of social assistance, adapted sport, education, transport, health, physical rehabilitation, work and employment, professional training, housing and accessibility of communications.

Moreover, there was an increase in the number of transport and inclusive schools, adapted public bathrooms, access ramps to public buildings, the use of sign language in the national programs, the creation of an Angolan sign language dictionary and the construction of buildings complying with the accessibility conditions and standards.

Mr. Chair,

Despite these improvements, challenges persist. Like most developing countries, Angola needs more resources regarding the application of the Accessibility Law and employability quotas, as well as in terms of sexual and reproductive health for people with disabilities, in order to guarantee they have equal access and opportunities.

Thank you very much.