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Speaking Note for the Dialogue between the SG and Selected Ministers of Angola
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Excellencies, Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I too am honored to be here in Luanda, accompanying the Secretary-General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, on this high-level mission.

I am always grateful to you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your leadership and guidance of our work in support of African countries such as Angola.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Commerce (MINCO), the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola in Geneva and the EU-Delegation in Angola for their consistent guidance, cooperation and support of our work.

The Secretary-General has passionately delivered his policy-focused remarks. He shared his aspirations for Angola. He articulated his vision to address the growing gap between Angola’s strong economic performance its social and human development indicators. The challenges that Angola faces in advancing socio-economic development are all too common in most African economies. The similarities are even more stark in countries that are dependent on extractive sectors. There is a large gap between economic performance and progress on social and human development indicators in Africa. Even more so than in other developing regions. This calls for a revision of the focus of current trade and development policies pursued by African countries, including Angola. Over the last decades, national polices have focused exclusively on generating higher levels of economic growth. The underlying assumption was that the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction is automatic and straightforward.
Our work proves otherwise. The link between economic growth and poverty reduction is not automatic. Nor is it straightforward. There is a growing body of evidence to support this, which in turn has led to consensus on new development policies and strategies. Such a paradigm shift calls for placing productive capacities and structural economic transformation at the center of domestic policies and strategies. The challenge for Angola and other African countries, as articulated by the Secretary-General, is how to best enhance their productive capacities and promote structural economic transformation. Addressing this challenge is critically important to help Angola to graduate from Least Developed Country status by 2021 and subsequently achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

**Excellencies, Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We believe that the EU-UNCTAD Programme of Support for Angola will contribute to national efforts to meet Angola’s development aspirations. The key objective of this ambitious Programme of Support is to build the human and institutional capacities of Angola. It is focused on formulating and implementing sound trade and development policies. This includes targeted efforts to promote export diversification and to develop a vibrant private sector. The Programme also aims to assist Angola in building a more resilient economy, capable of eradicating poverty and facilitating its graduation from LDC status.

**The initial phase of UNCTAD's intervention through the EU financed programme will focus on 6 project components, namely:**

- i) Commercial Diplomacy: Capacity Building in Trade Policy and Negotiation;
- ii) Angola Green Export Review;
- iii) Support for Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Angola;
- iv) Promoting Sustainable Transport and Trade Logistics;
- v) Investment Policy Review of Angola; and
- vi) Empretec (Programme of Support for Angola’s Enterprises).

Please allow me to provide you a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each of the six project components:
1. For the first component (Commercial Diplomacy), the focus will be on training Angolan trade negotiators and experts. The technical and substantive aspects of the trainings include issues related to trade rules at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. These trainings will also cover policy formulation on trade in goods and services, and non-tariff measures, as well as their implementation. Important databases and analytical tools developed by UNCTAD will be used to enrich the training programmes designed for Angolan negotiators and experts. The aim is to train 15-20 trainers and reach 200 -300Angolan leaders. We also plan to develop several study tours for Government officials.

2. Regarding the second project component (Angola Green Export Review), we aim to identify, map and develop promising sectors for green exports. This includes an analysis of products along local, regional and global value chains in which Angola has a comparative advantage. The component aims to train 200 policy makers and stakeholders. The trainings will also assist in identifying support measures for green industries to better position them in regional and global supply chains, as well as in international markets. We also plan to develop the capacities of 15 Angolans through train-the-trainer workshops.

3. Regarding third component (Support for the Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement -TFA), we aim at creating a roadmap to implement the reforms and laws required by the TFA. The objective is to conduct six trainings to build the capacities of between 30 and60 stakeholders each, as well as those of 10 national trainers. The training programmes will focus on international standards for trade facilitation, measurement and the implementation of the reforms in the area.

4. On Trade and Logistics (the fourth project component), we aim to identify and map the linkages between economic sectors and transport logistics. This will build on the national strategy to diversify its exports and the need for Angola to revamp its transport and trade logistics infrastructure, related services and networks. The mapping of trade logistics and the respective trainings are based on the comparative advantages of each mode of transport within the country. This will also build export opportunities and support the growth of products identified in the Angola Green Export Review component (Component two). The aim is to train 100 to 150 stakeholders.
5. The fifth component (Angola Investment Policy Review), will assist about 225 Angolan policy makers in attracting and benefiting from foreign direct investment (FDI), especially FDI beyond extractive industries. It will support the Government in reviewing and modernizing Angola’s legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment. This component will consider the work done in the other project components to foster coherence and synergies in attracting investment to Angola and in diversifying such flows to sectors outside of the extractive industries.

6. And finally, the sixth component (Empretec or UNCTAD’s Programme to support Enterprise Development in Angola) will focus on training 70 Angolan policy makers to formulate a national entrepreneurship strategy. It will also train 350 entrepreneurs, particularly from SMEs on strategies for enterprise development and entrepreneurial competences. This includes, innovation, risk taking, investment attraction and networking. Empretec will also train and certify at least 4 local trainers on the Empretec methodology. Advisory services and assistance on diversification and business opportunities will be provided to at least 50 SMEs.

**Excellencies, Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen**

In delivering the above project components, UNCTAD relies primarily on its well-established, in-house expertise. It will also draw from its recognized rosters of consultants to assist in the delivery of programme components. The overall implementation of the project will be managed from Geneva, but we have also recruited a national project coordinator, Mr. Adelino Muxito, who will work in close coordination with UNCTAD colleagues. The management and technical team will ensure the effective and result-oriented implementation of the project components.

In conclusion, UNCTAD is dedicated to deliver high-quality services to support Angola in tapping its economic potential, diversifying its economy and tackling poverty. In this regard, it is paramount to establish a well-coordinated implementation strategy at the country level, and to ensure ownership of the project for its effective implementation.

Thank you very much.