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Opening Statement at the Technical Meeting on the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme of Support for Angola: Train for Trade II

Luanda, 12 April 2018

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday, we launched the EU-UNCTAD joint Programme of Support for Angola during a high-level event. The launch helped to raise awareness about the programme and its implications for Angola’s trade and development. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD also held a fruitful dialogue with the Angolan Ministers who will be directly responsible for the implementation of the joint programme. Now is the time for concrete action. Working together, today we need to forge a coordinated implementation strategy and validate a consolidated action plan.
This technical-level meeting has three important aims: (i) To discuss the six project components, their objectives, implementation strategies and the necessary actions to make them a reality; (ii) To discuss and validate the consolidated action plan; and (iii) To exchange views on the coordinated implementation of the action plan over the lifespan of the project. On this last point, we will also aim to maximize synergies and complementarity between the UNCTAD and ACOM project components.

**Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I stated earlier, the overall objective of the joint Programme of Support is to enhance the human and institutional capacities of Angola to formulate and implement domestic development policies. This includes efforts to build a more diversified economy capable of ensuring sustained economic growth and the sustainable development of Angola. As the Secretary-General emphasized yesterday, during his meeting with Ministers, we at UNCTAD view this Programme of Support to Angola as a clear action towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will provide tailored trainings to Government officials, the private sector and academia in the relevant trade and development-related areas identified by Angolan officials. The training
programmes will contribute to the efforts of the Government of Angola to achieve economic diversification for sustained growth and development.

The six identified areas are:

a) Commercial Diplomacy;

b) Export Promotion and the Scoping of Non-Oil Trade Opportunities;

c) Trade Facilitation;

d) Trade Logistics;

e) SME Development; and

f) Investment

Now, please allow me to provide you with a brief overview of the six tailor-made projects components:

**Commercial Diplomacy:** The activities undertaken in support of commercial diplomacy will analyze and assist the formulation and implementation of national trade policy frameworks, including in the services sector. It will also support the effective participation of Angolan officials in multilateral, regional and sub-regional trade negotiations and agreements. This component will strengthen human capacities for sound trade analysis by using the UNCTAD databases and analytical tools, such as World Integrated Trade Solution, the Non-Tariff Measures database and UNCTADstat.
**Export diversification:** Here we place emphasis on scoping non-oil trade opportunities. In this context, UNCTAD will implement the Angola National Green Export Review (NGER). The objective of this component is to respond to Angola’s call to assess, identify and develop solutions to advance the production and trade of green sectors and products. This also includes transformation into higher quality, value-added products. The activities will facilitate private-sector participation towards forging business partnerships for green sectors and establishing green supply-chains for national and regional markets.

**Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Angola:** the focus of this component is improving trade logistics and trade facilitation measures. This component is particularly important to facilitate trade and enhance the export competitiveness of Angola. It focusses on access, connectivity and trade facilitation measures for economic integration at the national, regional and global levels. In this context, the component will develop trainings on international standards for trade facilitation; measuring and implementing trade facilitation; and on establishing a national trade facilitation implementation roadmap.
**Transport Logistics:** This component aims to improve transport and trade logistics by: (i) Enhancing economic, social and environmental sustainability; and (ii) Developing transport and trade logistics strategies that enable economic and trade development. It also aims to identify and map out the underlying linkages between economic sectors, transport and trade logistics, including infrastructure, services and networks.

**Investment Policy Review:** This component will assist in reviewing, updating and modernizing Angola’s investment policies. The Investment Policy Review will assess the country’s legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment. It includes formulating concrete policy recommendations and providing trainings to foster economic diversification, private sector development, as well as institutional strengthening and capacity building. The overall objective is to enhance the role of investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI) in Angola. This also includes facilitating Angola’s greater integration into the global economy and expanding access to and participation in regional and global value chains. Under this component, we also seek to assist Angola in attracting and benefiting from FDI in diverse sectors beyond the extractive industries. As a complement to the Review, we will organize a strategic capacity building training that is tailored to Angola’s needs and priorities.
Finally, the Enterprise Development component (EMPRETEC) will be devoted to the domestic enterprise sector with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) so that they can grow and allow Angola to compete in the global economy. It will build the capacity of Angolan stakeholders to formulate a national entrepreneurship strategy. It will also train entrepreneurs and owners of SMEs to develop clear ideas about what they want to achieve with their businesses in the short and long run. Empretec helps business owners to improve their core operational strategies and, above all, the bottom line of their businesses.

In conclusion, let me say that the six project components were identified through a needs assessment and with careful consultations among all stakeholders. We believe that the agreed areas are key to incite positive changes in the Angolan economy and to prepare the country for its 2021 graduation from LDC status. Let me also highlight that we have received further interest from Angolan authorities to include a Creative Industries’ component in the project. We believe that in the subsequent phase of the Joint Support programme, this will become an additional project component. We will undertake the necessary consultations and further discuss ideas with you this week.
UNCTAD would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Angola and to the EU for being chosen as the Executing Agency for this support programme for Angola.

We look forward to successful years of hard work and strong cooperation and commitment between all of us here: Angolans, UNCTAD, the IBF International Consulting and the EU.

Thank you once again for trusting us with this great task, we are very proud to be here.

Thank you.