

**Joint UNCTAD-ISO training workshop on National Quality Infrastructure for the Angolan agrifood sector, with a focus on fisheries, tropical fruits and coffee.**

**9-11 May 2023**

**Opening Statement by Ms. Johanna Silvander, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD**

Ms. Olga Dicamba, Director of INIQ, representing the Minister of Industry and Commerce,

Mr. Eddy Delaunay-Belleville, Programme Manager, European Union Delegation in Angola

Mr. Erich Kieck, Director for Capacity Building at the ISO,

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to welcome you all to this UNCTAD-ISO training workshop on National Quality Infrastructure for the Angolan agrifood sector, organized in the framework of the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II. At the outset, please allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce – the national coordinating entity of the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola – for its institutional support in organizing this workshop, as well as to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the National Institute for Quality Infrastructures (INIQ), IBIKOH Africa and several other private sector entities, as well as FAO and the Marine Stewardship Council for their collaboration.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the EU and its Delegation in Angola for its longstanding partnership with Angola and with UNCTAD in the implementation of the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II, which is funded by the European Union.

**Dear Participants,**

The **Train for Trade II** Programme has been in implementation since 2018, and in a few years, it has become a model for many others. The Programme aims to help Angola diversify its economy and exports sustainably and to integrate into regional and global value chains more effectively. The main vehicle for the intervention is human capital development: Training, Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for policy development and implementation processes, as well as for the development of value chains and supporting sectors.

The Programme adopts a holistic approach, supporting seven broader economic policy areas simultaneously and thereby contributing to increased policy coherence and joint implementation modalities. It has also helped to reduce overlaps and add value to sector-based efforts. The Programme works on the identification and development of Green Value Chains; Cultural and Creative Industries; Trade Policy; Investment policies and promotion; Trade facilitation; Entrepreneurship training and development; as well as Transport and trade logistics. It has so far capacitated over 2,600 Angolans, exceeding by up to nine-fold the original targets of people trained. It works with the public sector, private sector, academia, and civil society actors, contributing to a whole-of-society approach. It has capacitated over 660 institutions, organizations, and enterprises. The Programme has supported 15 major policy and legislative processes. The companies trained, through its entrepreneurship training component, register a growth in sales (this is the case for 85% of evaluated companies) and 72% yearly gross evolution in the number of jobs created. At the same time, impact-level evidence shows an increase in the value of green non-oil exports from Angola since 2016.

***National Quality Infrastructure - the topic of this workshop - plays a key role in supporting the goal of more diversified exports, a more diversified economy,***

*and Angola's integration into regional and global value chains - as all the experts here know.*

A National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) must be complete and fully operational in any country that wishes to produce safe and quality products for its citizens, and exports. NQI enables value addition through the assurance of safety and quality. These are fundamental issues for exporting to developed markets such as the European Union and others, and they are equally essential for regional trade in Africa.

In October 2022, UNCTAD organized a Workshop on how to harness the Blue Economy sustainably, in particular the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, for export. The workshop produced a set of recommendations that have started to be implemented by the Government, and UNCTAD is providing its support to the process. One of the recommendations was to strengthen the National Quality Infrastructure in Angola to add value, improve quality, and obtain a better price for fish that is currently being captured or farmed through aquaculture. In this workshop, we wish to broaden the scope to more agriproducts, we will be focusing on fisheries, tropical fruits, and coffee, as much of the basic infrastructure and requirements are similar and synergies need to be utilized in this sense.

*-- I was reading the notifications on LinkedIn before coming to Angola, and I saw that this week a high-level delegation from Angola -- with the leadership of H.E. Mario Caetano João, Minister of Economy and Planning -- is in Europe, in the Czech Republic, Germany, and France, to seek partnerships in agribusiness and finance. To take advantage of these opportunities that are opening up for Angola to export to Europe, it is necessary to meet the requirements of these markets in terms of safety and quality. These issues are at the core of the NQI that we will discuss here over three days. ---*

We recognize that developing the NQI is a major, continuous process. With this workshop, we hope to discuss the currently existing NQI in Angola and learn how to improve it further. Those needs for improvements could take the form of an Action Plan that can help us to develop further support interventions and that the relevant institutions here present can take up in their own planning.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In 2022, the Train for Trade II Programme was selected as a global success story for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Good Practices implementation. It was selected out of more than 750 applications globally and was among only four that were selected from Africa.

In March 2023, a Conference for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), LDC5, was organized in Doha, Qatar, to discuss the future support modalities for LDCs. In this context, UNCTAD organized a side event on the holistic intervention model, showcasing results from Angola. The UNCTAD Secretary-General led the panel which also included the Secretary of State of Commerce of Angola, H.E. Amadeu Leitão Nunes, and Hironidino Garcia, President of the Empretec host institution in Angola. The lessons from Angola raised major interest, and many countries are requesting UNCTAD to undertake similar programmes in their countries. These include Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, and others. They are all learning from Angola which has been pioneering in the implementation of the holistic programme model, with the support of UNCTAD and with funding by the European Union.

In this last year of implementation of the Train for Trade II Program, 2023, we sincerely hope that we can continue providing this type of technical support to Angola also in the future. Many exciting results have been achieved, and several value chains supported – including fisheries, honey, tropical fruits, and coffee – and we wish to build on these results and move to the next level. At the next level, more value-added exports from Angola would be facilitated and related

institutions supported. The next phase would also more closely look at the digitalization of commerce and different operations. Sustainable investment in priority sectors would be targeted and promoted. The Blue Economy would be comprehensively supported.

We hope that we can realize this, with your support, your continued engagement, and your participation, to the benefit of Angola.

**Dear colleagues,**

I provided you with some overarching information on the joint EU-UNCTAD support to Angola. I hope that this has encouraged you and made you curious about learning more. Let us use these energies in the coming days to focus on an improved National Infrastructure of quality for Angola. Thank you for your attention.