

High Impact Initiative - Transforming4Trade

17 September 2023

11:45 – 13:15 (New York time)

17:45 – 19:15 (Geneva time)

Conference Room 1
United Nations Headquarters
New York

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Rui Miguêns de Oliveira, Minister of Industry and
Commerce, Angola**

Excellencies,

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global call to action to end poverty in the world, protect the environment and climate, ensuring that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity. We are here to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the SDGs and to announce that Angola is working with its development partners to achieve the Agenda 2030.

In this perspective, it is with great honour, humility, and immense pride that I address Your Excellencies at this historic moment, on the occasion of the Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals. Today, I bring the voice of the Angolan people and Government to share an achievement that fills us with satisfaction and hope: Angola is the first country to implement the *Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme*. The programme has created significant impact on the ground and helped us to move towards realizing our vision and aspirations. It is laying the foundation for structural economic transformation while offering opportunities for a new policy paradigm to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development of our country. This is a significant milestone in our journey towards a better future with tangible progress in poverty reduction and employment creation to harness the youth dividend of Angola.

. The Holistic Programme is also assisting the Government of Angola in implementing a series of economic and fiscal reforms to improve the business environment and promote sustainable investments. It particularly enables us to harness Angola's comparative advantages and unlock some of the key binding constraints such as overdependence on a single or few commodities for exports. Therefore, we believe that the holistic integrated and long-term approach to economic development is the way to revitalize the key sectors of our economy, boost productive capacities, and create tangible impacts in the lives of our people.

In this context, we are pleased to witness the transformative nature of the **EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola**. The Holistic Programme supports the diversification of Angola's economy and its exports, in line with the priorities of the Angolan government. It enhances our human resources, and institutional, regulatory, and policymaking capabilities. The programme particularly plays an important role in facilitating Angola's participation in regional and global value chains in sectors where Angola has comparative advantages. Fundamentally, this aims to enable sustainable revenue generation at the national level for the achievement of the SDGs, thus creating resilience towards external shocks and reducing dependency on commodity exports.

The results achieved so far have been highly encouraging, and we are pleased to share them with all of you, hoping that our experience can serve as an example for other countries facing similar challenges, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Excellencies,

This program started in 2018, and so far, we can observe multifaceted tangible results thanks to its innovative nature. First of all, the program covers seven areas of economic policy and sustainable development. It has brought 23 ministries and national agencies, including the private sector, academia and civil society together to accelerate implementation and improve coordination. This represents a major coordination effort for which a two-level multi-agency mechanism was put in place. The first- a Steering Committee - provides strategic direction and policy guidance, whereas the second level – a Technical Committee - oversees the

day-to-day technical implementation of the program. The two coordination mechanisms work hand in hand creating synergies, maximizing impacts and promoting collaboration among all stakeholders. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce serves as an institutional focal point facilitating inter-institutional communication and improving policy coherence. This has led to more cohesive collaboration on issues such as trade and sectoral integration processes, as well as the improvement of promising non-oil export sectors, such as fisheries, tropical fruits, honey, coffee, several cultural and creative industries and related sectors.

It is also worth noting that Angola received critically important support to develop policies, including investment policy and international investment agreement reviews, and assistance to develop the National Quality Infrastructure for value-added exports of agricultural products from Angola. Investment promotion strategies in agriculture and related value chains were also developed. With UNCTAD's assistance, new rules and regulations for public-private partnerships were developed, and PPP projects formulated to improve transport and logistics infrastructure for the new economy we aim to build. This has, for instance, led to a 3.2 billion US dollar investment in the Lobito corridor, connecting the Lobito port of Angola to the DRC, and helping to get more green products to regional and global markets from the remote areas of Angola. Mapping of value chains for eight promising green products was conducted, with technical assistance for these sectors' development and domestic value addition. Additionally, strategies are being developed for creative and cultural industries, entrepreneurship, trade facilitation, trade policy, and various value-added agricultural products' exports.

Last year, UNCTAD provided valuable support for a better understanding of the country's productive capacities by assessing Angola's potential and binding constraints through a National Productive Capacities Gaps Assessment. This assessment identified policy and implementation gaps, pointing out priorities and suggestions to strengthen these capacities. Based on this gaps assessment, we are now intensifying a second phase of the Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme, building on the extensive work done in the past five years. The gaps assessment also provided essential elements for the new National Development Policy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Angola. Furthermore, UNCTAD assisted the government in the development of a National Smooth Transition Strategy as part of the process of Graduation with Momentum and Beyond. Indeed, it is the bold aim of Angola to graduate from the LDC category and move towards a middle-income economy by further strengthening its economy-wide productive capacities and building an economy that provides opportunities for all. The Holistic Programme's support has been crucial in this regard.

In terms of results, the Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programme of Angola has already trained over 2900 Angolans, significantly surpassing the program's training targets. One hundred trainers have also been trained to multiply the impact of the intervention and enhance the national institutions' ownership. We greatly appreciate the geographical distribution of the Programme in Angola, as it has managed to reach audiences in all 18 provinces through its multisectoral support, from identifying and developing new green value chains to facilitating trade, trade policy, investment promotion, developing transport and logistics infrastructure, supporting creative industries, and providing entrepreneurship training.

Excellencies,

The Holistic Programme is also key in fostering a dynamic and vibrant domestic private sector. Today, 30 of the best-performing 100 enterprises and companies in Angola have gone through the UNCTAD

entrepreneurship program. 85% of trained entrepreneurs report increased sales growth and annual gross employment growth at 72% level is observed. The Programme capacitated a National Host Institution - the Prestigio Executive Entrepreneurs League of Angola – to deliver more entrepreneurship training across Angola. The Director of the National Host Institution is here today and –will share the private sector perspective with you all. By all stretches of the imagination, these are robust achievements and results in only five years, which we intend to encourage and replicate in various regions of the country, as revitalizing the national business environment, fostering employment, particularly self-employment, with a focus on youth, is one of the government's top priorities.

It is relevant to highlight the continued growth of non-oil exports from Angola since 2016, despite a decline in 2020 due to COVID-19. However, these exports are still modest compared to those in the oil sector, highlighting the need to develop these green resources sustainably for a better future for the Angolan people.

Excellencies,

In 2022, the Holistic Programme of Angola was selected as a global success story on SDG good practices implementation. And today, we are here to share our experience with all of you in the framework of this Transforming4Trade High Impact Initiative. The recognition we witness today fills us with great pride, but above all, it encourages us to redouble our efforts and continue on the path initiated in 2018 so that in 2030 when we assess the SDGs, we can bring new results and even greater success for our populations. Angola is a vast country with enormous potential. However, it remains highly dependent on one sector, making our economy vulnerable to international fluctuations and external shocks. This moment also demonstrates that economic transformation is a process subject to the dynamics of the national and international contexts, but the fact is that transformation is happening in our country today.

Therefore, I appeal to our development partners to look at Angola from this perspective, as a country that dares to implement profound changes and transformations despite the challenging global economic context, with the firm conviction that such changes are necessary to achieve the progress that our people aspire to and truly deserves.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Her Excellency, UNCTAD Secretary-General, Mrs. Rebeca Grynspan, and her entire team, extending thanks to the entire United Nations system for the tremendous work they do in Angola and their significant contribution to sustainable development. Your partnership is invaluable, and we intend to maintain it.

I also wish to highlight the importance of the European Union, a strategic partner of the Government of Angola, with whom we have developed a range of actions in various domains. Their specific contribution to the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II has been invaluable. We reiterate our interest in continuing this fruitful cooperation. Together, we can capitalize on the gains we have achieved so far, consolidate them, and expand the horizons of development in other areas of our economy. It is extremely important that we keep this momentum going, and continue the work we started in 2018 in the interest of our partnership.

On behalf of the Angolan people, I thank all of you at this Summit for your commitment to a more sustainable and promising future. Our journey is just beginning, but with determination and this type of cooperation, we are confident that we can shape a better future for all.

I thank you for your kind attention.