



Human Rights Council

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Angola

34th Session (November 2019)

Joint Stakeholders' Submission on:

Human Rights in Angola

Submitted by:

IIMA - Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education
and Development**

(NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC)

Geneva, March 2019

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This stakeholders' report is a submission of the above-mentioned organization. The report highlights key concerns related to Human Rights in Angola. Each section conveys recommendations to the Angolan Government.

2. The data and information obtained for this submission came from various sources and includes information from teachers, educators, and other civil society actors living and working in Angola. All information concerned the period from January 2014 to March 2019.

3. **IIMA** is an international NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. IIMA is present in 95 countries where it provides education to children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

4. **VIDES International** is an international NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, which is presented in 42 countries worldwide. It was founded in 1987 to promote volunteer service at the local and international levels for ensuring human rights of vulnerable groups, especially children and women.

II. GENERAL REMARKS

4. This NGO coalition welcomes the constructive participation of Angola in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The present submission represents the follow-up to the UPR recommendations addressed to Angola in its second UPR held in 2014, with a special focus on children-related issues such as child birth registration, sexual and economic exploitation, and ill treatment of children, as well as the full implementation of their right to education. The right to health and rights of women in Angola are also addressed in the present report.

III. VULNERABLE CHILDREN

5. Children are among the most vulnerable groups in Angola, especially children in street situations, children involved in crime, prostitution, or child labor. Additionally, children living in rural areas are vulnerable, as well as children abandoned by parents.

6. While welcoming the acceptance of Recommendation No. 55¹ and the efforts made by the Government to implement it through new programs such as the Child Abduction Alert System

¹ Recommendation 55: Further expand the initiatives aimed at reaching better protection of the rights of the child (Armenia). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

(SARM)², we note with concern that in urban and rural areas alike, children continue to suffer from abandonment and are at risk living in the streets.

7. Moreover, IIMA and VIDES welcome the acceptance of Recommendation No. 66³ concerning the protection of children with disabilities. We commend Angola for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014 and for the submission of its State report in 2017. However we note that its review has yet to take place. We also note with concern the persistence of discrimination against people with disabilities, albinism, and mental handicaps. Families often abandon or hide children with disabilities because of lack of state support for their inclusion .

8. We recommend the Government of Angola to:

a) Fully implement Recommendation No. 55 by improving the basic services to children in the streets, including adequate housing, health and education.

b) Undertake an awareness campaign to bring light to the issue of child abandonment and negligence.

c) Undertake measures to foster inclusion and to combat discrimination of children with disabilities and albinism, especially in schools.

d) Implement a public campaign to raise awareness on the rights of people with disabilities and expand social welfare provisions to families with children who have disabilities.

IV. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

9. IIMA and VIDES welcome Angola's acceptance of Recommendation No. 139⁴ and notes the significant progress made by the Government in the area of education, especially through the construction of new schools and infrastructure in order to provide better access to education for all. Moreover, in advancement of Recommendation No. 174⁵, we commend the Government's

² Second UPR cycle midterm report of Angola, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>

³ Recommendation 66: Further strengthen its activities undertaken to combat discrimination, in particular with regard to children with disabilities, children with HIV/AIDS and San children (Israel). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

⁴ Recommendation 139: Continue to improve infrastructure and public services, especially medical and educational facilities in the rural areas (Thailand). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

⁵ Recommendation 174: Increase efforts to fully implement legislation to provide free education to all children in order to ensure that all children have equal access to education (Maldives). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

adoption in 2016 of Basic Law no.17/16⁶ requiring compulsory, free education from the primary to middle school years in order to extend free national education from 6 to 9 years.⁷

10. Access to education. We are deeply concerned that a shortage of schools especially on the periphery of cities and in rural areas still exists. Private schools have increased but are expensive and many families cannot afford to pay the high tuition fees. As a result, children living in rural areas in particular have very limited or no access at all to education. Moreover, IIMA and VIDES are deeply concerned that a great number of children in Angola abandon their studies because of their difficult economic situation. Many children and adolescents live on the street, suffering from abandonment or broken families, where there is no one responsible for sending them to school. Consequently, children become involved in street crime, prostitution, and child labor.

11. Early Pregnancy. Despite the Government's acceptance of Recommendation No. 176⁸, we express concern over the dropout rate of adolescent girls due to early pregnancy and would like to stress the importance of improving access to education for girls and young women. Angola has one of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in sub-Saharan Africa, with an adolescent fertility rate of 192 per 1,000 women.⁹ Given that 72% of adolescent pregnancies occur among teenagers living in rural areas, early pregnancy may be both a result of lack of access to education, or a reason for drop out if the girl was unable to access a school in a rural area. In the latter situation, lack of proximity of schools is a problem, which leaves girls uneducated if no affordable school is in the area. Moreover, the quality of sexual education in schools is inadequate.¹⁰ IIMA and VIDES also note that girls and young women are not encouraged to pursue all fields of education such as science, engineering and mathematics, which confines them to gender-stereotyped roles due to traditional mindsets.¹¹

12. Moreover, we report that the **quality of education** in public schools is wanting as they lack better professionally prepared teachers, better educational facilities, and closer accompaniment of children. The CEDAW Committee during its 72nd session held in February 2019 expressed concerns when reviewing Angola on the budget allocation to education and recommended the

⁶ CRC, 78th Session Angola 2018, Concluding Observations, paragraph 3 (c), page 2.

⁷ OHCHR, DisplayNews, Committee on the Rights of the Child considers reports of Angola. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23093&LangID=E>

⁸ Recommendation 176: Take measures to ensure universal enrolment in primary education for both boys and girls and encourage attendance in secondary schools, as well as to ensure the integration of human rights in school curricula at all levels (State of Palestine). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

⁹ Management Sciences for Health, "Promoting sexual and reproductive health among Angolan youth". Available at, <https://www.msh.org/news-events/stories/promoting-sexual-and-reproductive-health-among-angolan-youth>

¹⁰ The World Health Organization, Country Profile: Angola. Available at, http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/events/2008/mdg5/countries/Final_Countryprofile_Angola_18_09_08.pdf

¹¹ CEDAW, 72nd Session Angola 2019, Concluding Observations, paragraph 36 (e), page 10.

Government to strengthen their efforts to improve the quality of education, including by ensuring that the increase of enrolment is matched with the supply of qualified teachers and learning facilities.¹² Similarly in 2018, the CRC voiced concerns regarding the quality of education and recommended the government to expedite the approval of the draft policy on teacher training which would in turn improve poor quality of teaching.¹³

13. Human Rights Education. IIMA and VIDES welcome the acceptance of recommendation No.169¹⁴ the efforts made for the introduction of human rights education in school curricula, including human rights training for public school teachers.¹⁵ This NGO coalition in addition welcomes information that trafficking in persons has become a part of the human rights education curriculum.¹⁶ However, we perceive that human rights education is not yet universally implemented in all formal and informal educational settings.

14. We recommend to the Government of Angola to:

a) Fully implement Recommendation No. 139 by expanding educational infrastructure to reach city peripheries and rural areas.

b) Adopt measures to combat early pregnancy, especially in rural areas, by expediting the approval phase of the proposed national campaign to prevent early pregnancy and marriage 2018 -2022.¹⁷

c) Ensure that all children irrespective of their socioeconomic background have equal access to education and undertake specific education measures to take children off the street.

d) Enhance the quality of education in public schools, including better professional preparation for teachers and facility improvements.

e) Outline an implementation plan to strengthen the efforts for the inclusion of Human Rights Education in all formal and informal educational settings.

¹² CEDAW, 72nd Session Angola 2019, Concluding Observations, paragraph 36 (b), page 10.

¹³ CRC, 78th Session Angola 2018, Concluding Observations, paragraph 34 (c), page 12.

¹⁴ Recommendation 169: Realize the right to education for all, including human rights education, by inter alia, ensuring the effective implementation of the law providing for free primary education (Germany). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

¹⁵ Candidature of the Republic of Angola to the Human Rights Council Term 2018-2020. Available at, <http://www.universal-rights.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Voluntary-Pledges-and-Commitments-of-Angola-2018-2020.pdf>

¹⁶ OHCHR, DisplayNews, CEDAW 72nd Session Angola. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24225&LangID=E>

¹⁷ CEDAW 72nd Session Angola, State party report, page 25. Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fAGO%2f7&Lang=en

V. CHILD BIRTH REGISTRATION

15. We acknowledge the implementation of the Recommendations No. 76¹⁸ and 79¹⁹ concerning the necessity to ensure free birth registration for all and we welcome the Government campaigns encouraging birth registration. However, we believe that registration and acquisition of an identity card remains challenging, and oftentimes campaigns have insufficient supplies to complete the registration process. In addition, we note that it is a requirement for both parents to be present for birth registration which presents itself as an obstacle to the registration of some children.²⁰

16. We recommend to the Government of Angola to:

a) Fully implement Recommendation No. 76 and 79 by ensuring free birth registration for all children.

b) Continue its efforts to raise awareness on the importance of birth registration, and supply adequate materials for birth registration campaigns.

c) Remove the requirement that both parents need to be present for birth registration.

VI. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

17. Although we welcome the acceptance of Recommendation No. 96²¹, 86²², and 92²³ concerning the necessity to combat sexual exploitation and human trafficking, as well as child labor, we remain concerned that sexual and economic exploitation of children in Angola is as

¹⁸ Recommendation 76: Extend the length of the special campaign promoting the civil registry and make permanent the fee exemption for such registration (Mexico). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

¹⁹ Recommendation 79: Finalize legislation on free birth registration for all citizens and enhance registration systems and continue campaigns to this effect (Sierra Leone). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

²⁰ CEDAW, 72nd Session Angola, Concluding observations, paragraph 33 (b) and 34 (b), page 9.

²¹ Recommendation 96: Adopt policies and measures in order to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and to facilitate the social integration of those who were victims of such a crime (Romania). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

²² Recommendation 86: Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons and protect the victims thereof within the framework of implementing its own national legislation and within the country's international commitments (United Arab Emirates). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

²³ Recommendation 92: Stop child labour, as previously recommended (Italy). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

serious as four years ago. The victims are generally very poor children who may live on the streets, are school dropouts, and are coerced by adults.

18. While welcoming the efforts made by the Government to implement it through Resolution No. 28/16 of July 25 of the National Assembly condemning violence against children and Presidential Decree No. 35/16 of November 1 creating the Interministerial Commission for the Preparation of a Study and Production of Proposals to contain and combat violence against children and other vulnerable groups²⁴, IIMA remains seriously concerned that sexual abuses continue to occur inside and outside of the family.

19. With regard to human trafficking, we welcome the ongoing investigations into these cases, and cooperation with the UN Office of the Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as radio and television awareness raising for the crime of trafficking. Other positive changes include The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights hotline for potential victims and reporting of suspected trafficking cases.²⁵

20. However, IIMA expresses its deepest concern about over 40 reports of human trafficking since 2014, of which most victims were children. Trafficking takes place within the country and externally, whereby children are exported worldwide.²⁶ The criminalization of human trafficking in the 2014 money laundering act was a positive step, but prevention, investigation, and prosecution procedures need improvement.

21. We recommend the Government of Angola to:

- a) *Establish a body to gather statistics on human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Angola.***
- b) *Take appropriate measures to eradicate sexual exploitation by investigating cases and prosecuting perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.***
- c) *Expand national programs aimed at protecting and rehabilitating vulnerable children, and especially children in street situations, from sexual exploitation and trafficking.***

²⁴ Second cycle midterm report of Angola, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>

²⁵ United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons 2017 Report: Angola. Available at, <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2018/282599.htm>

²⁶ Agencia Angola Press, “Angola: Over 40 cases of human trafficking reported”. Available at, http://www.angop.ao/angola/en_us/noticias/politica/2018/10/46/Angola-Over-cases-human-trafficking-reported.b860c595-a1ca-4f10-ab51-e68fc7e92d08.html

d) Ensure adequate training for border officials to screen migrants entering or leaving Angola for signs of being victims of human trafficking, as well as combat corruption among public officers.

VII. ILL TREATMENT AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

22. While Angola expressed its commitment to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings through the acceptance of Recommendation No. 87²⁷, corporal punishment remains lawful under article 10 of the Child Act 2012 in the home, alternative care settings, school, day care, and penal institutions providing no defense tool for victims.²⁸ As a result, children are often victims of ill treatment by their families and in school, where a repressive form of education is used, rather than a preventative method.

23. In realising the Government's acceptance of UPR recommendation No.87 to prohibit corporal punishment, law reform must be undertaken. While noting the importance of training teachers and other educational staff on the dangers of corporal punishment, the explicit prohibition of its use must be written in law.²⁹

24. Moreover, despite the Government's acceptance of Recommendation No. 17³⁰, Angola has yet to ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol which it signed in 2013. Lenient sentences for the crime of torture and ill-treatment send a wrong message and any form of violence against children, including corporal punishment, should not be tolerated.

25. We recommend the Government of Angola to:

a) Modify Article 10 of the Child Act of 2012³¹ in order to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings including in the family home, in schools, in alternative care settings, in day-care and penal institutions, without any exception.

²⁷ Recommendation 87: Explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in the upbringing and education of children (Uruguay). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

²⁸ Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment, Country Report for Angola. Available at, <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/reports-on-every-state-and-territory/angola/>

²⁹ Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children, Briefing on Angola for the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Session 77 pre sessional working group, June 2017. Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCRC%2fNGO%2fAGO%2f28148&Lang=en

³⁰ Recommendation 17: Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Denmark). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

³¹ Article 10 of the Child Act provides for the concept of "justifiable correction", which leaves open the possibility for corporal punishment because the Act does not specifically prohibit this.

b) Undertake education campaigns to educate parents and educators on alternative forms of discipline.

c) Ratify The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol.

VIII. RIGHT TO HEALTH

26. We highlight the acceptance of Recommendation No. 159³² and 160³³ regarding attention to infant and child mortality in Angola, as it remains a serious problem in the country.

27. Child and maternal mortality rates in Angola are among the highest in the world. Almost 1 in 5 children do not survive until age 5. Children and infants die from malaria, diarrhea, respiratory infections and neonatal problems compounded by low birth weight.³⁴

28. Additionally, malnutrition is an underlying cause of many deaths in childhood. 29.2 per cent of children are stunted and 15.6 percent are underweight. 60 percent of the population has access to sanitation, while only 42 per cent to have access to safe water.³⁵

29. The sale and use of drugs is a growing problem in Angola. Drugs are sold in public spaces such as informal markets, and canteens. High alcohol consumption begins from an early age.

30. We recommend the Government of Angola to:

a) Expand provisions and infrastructure for screenings and treatment for children suffering from malnutrition.

b) Create public awareness campaigns to warn of the symptoms of malnutrition and long-term effects on children.

³² Recommendation 159: Take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the “Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality of children under 5 years of age” (Ireland). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

³³ Recommendation 160: Conduct a survey on child mortality in order to get updated and reliable data (Norway). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

³⁴ UNICEF, Background on Angola. Available at, https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/angola_502.html

³⁵ Ibid.

c) Adopt all necessary measures to improve the quality of public health services, including the provision of adequate infrastructures and qualified medical staff to treat infants, children, and provide prenatal and postnatal care.

d) Combat drugs and alcohol addiction, especially among youth, by developing a system for prevention and assistance as well as specialized centers for rehabilitation.

IX. RIGHTS OF WOMEN

31. We welcome the acceptance of Recommendation No. 100³⁶ to ensure full implementation of Law 25/11 against Domestic Violence³⁷ and protection of women at risk of violence. However, we note with concern that domestic violence remains very high in families despite the existence of this legislation.

32. IIMA and VIDES welcome the acceptance of Recommendation No. 68³⁸ to continue to address persistent discriminatory practices that hinder equal participation of women in all spheres of life.

33. However, gender inequality persists in society, where women are illiterate and often unemployed. Single mothers are especially vulnerable and struggle to provide for their children. Moreover the legal framework for equality and non-discrimination is lacking with the constitution of the State party itself not providing a comprehensive definition of equal rights and non-discrimination.³⁹

34. We recommend the Government of Angola to:

a) Strengthen its efforts in combating domestic violence, especially against disadvantaged and vulnerable women, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

³⁶ Recommendation 100: Ensure full implementation of Law 25/11 against Domestic Violence and ensure there are increased protections against all forms of violence faced by women, including internally displaced and refugee women, who are among the most vulnerable (Canada). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

³⁷ Angolan Law 25/11 against Domestic Violence: adopted unanimously 14 June 2011, description in Government of Angola, Beijing+20 National Review, 2014, pg 27. https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/Beijing20/NationalReviews/angola_beijing_review_report.pdf

³⁸ Recommendation 68: Continue to address persistent discriminatory practices that hinder equal participation of women in economic, socio-civic, political, and all other spheres, by encouraging educational institutions and media practitioners to portray women as capable leaders and as significant contributors to growth and development of a society (Philippines). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Angola, 5 December 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/11.

³⁹ CEDAW 72nd Session Angola 2019, Concluding Observations, paragraph 11, page 3.

b) Ensure free education that focuses on literacy, especially for disadvantaged women, to make them more competitive in the labour market and to enhance their participation in public life.

c) Further promote participation of women in the decision-making process and use media to portray them as capable leaders.

d) Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women that is in line with Article 1 of the CEDAW Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 5.1.

X. EMPLOYMENT

35. IIMA and VIDES welcome the acceptance of Recommendation No. 145⁴⁰, advocating for the continuation of endeavors for combating poverty at local level and for integration of vulnerable population into the economy. We commend Angola for the dramatic reduction in female unemployment from 25.6% in 2004 to 8.6% in 2017, although this is a one percentage point increase from 2016.⁴¹

36. However, we stress that the lack of a diversified economy poses a challenge for the unemployed to find work, and especially for young people to join the labor force. Moreover, employment opportunities are not equal, because of corruption, nepotism, and the unequal access to education and professional development for the most disadvantaged groups.

37. We recommend the Government of Angola to:

- a) Continue its efforts to decrease the rate of unemployment, specifically for women and youth.*
- b) Implement measures to combat corruption and nepotism in hiring processes, with special attention paid to positions of power in government.*
- c) Expand programs targeting youth employment and skills training, especially for the most disadvantaged groups of the population.*

⁴⁰ Recommendation 145: Continue to intensify endeavours for combating poverty at local level and for integration of vulnerable population into the economy (United Republic of Tanzania)

⁴¹ The World Bank, Unemployment, female (% of female labor force) (modeled ILO estimate). Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=AO&view=chart>