

LDC5 side event: Holistic and multisectoral interventions to address systemic and structural vulnerabilities in LDCs: Lessons learned from Angola.

Date: 6 March 2023

Time: 12:15-13:45

Statement by H.E. Mr. Amadeu Leitão Nunes, Secretary of State for Commerce

Thank you. Thank you all. I have an intervention to make, which will answer the question. It is an official intervention that would have been read by our Minister, who is now attending other activities.

Excellency, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of UNCTAD.

Excellent Panelists, Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Johanna Sumuvuori, Francisco Gonçalo Nunes, Hirondino Garcia.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to make a special reference to a lady who is here today, a Member of Parliament from Angola and who was my Minister of Commerce, Ms. Idalina Valente, who is present. Thank you very much, Ms. Idalina. And a reference because we are talking about the Train for Trade II programme, but we must mention that this programme, the previous Train for Trade I, was also financed by the European Union from 2006 to 2011. And during this period Ms. Idalina was the Minister of Commerce. So, you understand the importance and the coincidence of being here in this activity of the parliamentary forum. This was a part that I wanted to do.

*It is a great pleasure for me to be here at this LDC5 side event, organised by UNCTAD, entitled: **Holistic and multisectoral interventions to address systemic and structural vulnerabilities in LDCs: Lessons learned from Angola.***

UNCTAD has been a great supporter of Angola for decades now, and since 2018 we have been together implementing the European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II. This holistic and multisectoral programme is part of the umbrella Apoio ao Comércio (ACOM) project financed by the European Union in Angola. The Programme's innovative approach has brought about important results and impacts in Angola, recognized widely by Government entities, private sector actors, universities and high education institutions as well as civil society organizations in our country. It has enabled an essential shift in the development narrative, moving away from silo-type and disjointed actions directed to individual sectors, towards a comprehensive programme model.

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to UNCTAD and to the European Union for this assistance. Our plea is that the same type of holistic and multisectoral support continues in the years to come, implemented by UNCTAD and with funding by the European Union, to take us up to 2030 where we take stock of the achievement on SDGs. This is indeed essential for us.

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Regarding impacts recorded in Angola, let me briefly tell you about the Programme's objectives as well as the results that we can observe in our country. I hope this can serve as an inspiration to other LDCs and developing economies, as well as a testimonial to our development partners about technical assistance programmes that *work* and *deliver impacts*.

The European Union-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola supports the diversification of the Angolan economy and exports by strengthening institutional and human resources capacity, promoting value chain development and exports and facilitating integration into regional and global value chains. Ultimately, this is aimed to enable sustainable revenue generation at the national level for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The diversification of the economy has been a core priority of the Government of Angola and is again highlighted in the upcoming National Development Plan 2023-2027. This is combined with a national priority on the development and strengthening of our human capital, equally a priority of the Programme that we are discussing here today.

From 2018 until today, we can observe many-sided results of this exciting Programme. Let me start by the immediate impacts on our inter-agency coordination within the Government. The Support Programme is engaged in seven different economic policy, development and sustainability improvement areas, which is why it is working with 23 Government Ministries in Angola, and several agencies. This entails a major coordination effort, and for this purpose, the Programme has put in place a two-layered multi-agency management system which follows closely the day-to-day implementation of the Programme and provides political guidance. This mechanism has been able to stimulate a better collaboration and exchange of information within Government agencies, and extending beyond to private sector actors, universities civil society, and entrepreneurs of the industrial society. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce as the national coordinating entity convenes the meetings and facilitates inter-agency communications, and we can observe – at first hand – a significant improvement in this coordination. Further, this coordination has led to improved policy coherence, as different Ministries come together to form policies, such as recently on different trade integration processes, as well as on sectoral policies such as those aiming at improving the quality of Angolan honey and fisheries for exports.

Angola has benefited from ahead-of-the curve analytical support to policy development, including an Investment Policy Review; Review of International Investment Agreements; Investment promotion strategies focusing on agriculture and products supporting its value chains; Public-Private Partnership regulations with a view to facilitating transport infrastructure development for the new economic structure; mapping of eight promising green products' value chains and technical assistance to their value chain development, to mention a few. Assistance

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is currently being provided to the drafting of strategies for the cultural and creative industries, entrepreneurship, trade facilitation and trade policy, as well as honey products' and fisheries' exports.

Last year, UNCTAD also helped us to better understand our economy-wide productive capacities through a National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment. The Assessment shed light on policy and implementation gaps as well as the derived priorities, and suggested ways forward to continue strengthening our productive capacities. UNCTAD also assisted us to start developing our National Smooth Transition Strategy, to pave the way to Graduation with Momentum and beyond. These processes have been very helpful for Angola to situate itself in the productive capacities landscape, and see which areas should be addressed as a priority in the years to come. They have also helped to provide a basis for future interventions to continue building productive capacities.

The Programme has trained over 2,550 Angolans thus far, significantly surpassing the Programme's targets on people trained. It has trained over 100 trainers to multiply the impacts of the intervention and to ground ownership in national institutions. We greatly appreciate the Programme's geographic distribution in Angola: it has been able to reach audiences in all 18 provinces through its multisectoral support from the identification and development of new green value chains to trade facilitation, trade policy, investment promotion, development of infrastructures, support to creative industries and entrepreneurship training. Let me raise as an example some impacts recorded through the entrepreneurship training. In this part, Mr. Hironidino Garcia, who is currently responsible for the EMPRETEC programme, will certainly explain further, just to mention that 30 of the best companies, with the best performance in Angola, have passed through UNCTAD's EMPRETEC Entrepreneurship program; and 85% of EMPRETEC-trained people report sales growth after training. Enterprises trained by EMPRETEC also report a 72% yearly gross evolution in the number of jobs created. Empretec has also trained national trainers and capacitated the National Empretec Host Institution – Prestígio that is represented here today – to deliver further trainings.

The technical support to green products and services development has included in-depth research, policy advice and training on the fisheries sector and aquaculture subsector; hands-on training in honey quality improvement; a pilot extension services project for the honey sector; policy and programme support and needs assessments of laboratories, as well as support to the mapping of value chains and drafting action plans. Technical assistance has been provided to attract sustainable investment in agriculture and supporting products, as well as the design of PPP projects for transport infrastructure and logistics hubs development in support of the new envisaged structure of the economy. Institutions have been strengthened to take up new tasks

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and lead policy development processes, such as in the case of the entrepreneurship policy, as well as honey and related residues policy and plan.

I want to also mention the steady growth in real terms that is being observed in the exports of our non-oil products from Angola to the world since 2016 – despite the overall dip experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The non-oil exports remain modest so far compared to oil exports, demonstrating that we need to continue developing these resources sustainably for a better future for the Angolan people.

It is with much pride and humbleness that we received the news of the Angola Programme's selection as a global success story for SDG good practices implementation by the UN system last year. I hope indeed that our experience can help other LDCs to move towards sustainable structural transformation, reduction of poverty and graduation from LDC category.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I wish to urge the development partners here present to continue supporting holistic, multisectoral and multiyear technical assistance programmes in LDCs. Investing in the UNCTAD Trust Fund for Building Productive Capacities and Achieving Sustainable Development in the Least Developed Countries is a great way to do so, for the benefit of the LDCs as a whole.

In the case of Angola, I welcome the fruitful discussions with UNCTAD and with the European Union for a continuation of the current, very successful intervention, which I hope will continue supporting us in the next very critical years where Angola will graduate from the LDC category and move towards a middle-income country built on sustainable economic grounds, with more prosperity for all.

I thank you for your attention.