

Government of Angola



**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Angola
Geneva**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office and international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the communication dated 17 July 2023 regarding the outstanding issue of the interpretation of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) in relation to the right to strike.

In this context, the Permanent Mission wishes to highlight the following points:

1. Rights to form associations and bargain collectively are fundamental human rights that make it possible to promote democracy, sound labour market governance and decent conditions at work;
2. In Angola, key aspects of strikes are regulated by Law No. 23/91 dated 15 June – the Strike Law, without prejudice to its general stipulation and/or its relationship with other legislation, namely:
 - The Constitution of the Republic of Angola (CRA);
 - Law No. 7/15 dated 15 June – General Labour Law (LGT);
 - Law No. 20-A/92 dated 14 August – Law on Collective Bargaining (LNC); and
 - Law No. 21-D/92 dated 28 August – Law on Unions (LS).
3. Article 50, paragraph 1 of the CRA provides that “workers have the freedom to establish trade union associations for the defence of their collective and individual interests”;
4. Article 51, paragraph 1 of the CRA also states that “workers have the right to strike”;
5. It is worth pointing out that strike action is a worker’s fundamental right. It is therefore up to workers to decide whether or not to exercise this right, within the framework of the legally established procedures (art. 51, paragraph 1 of the CRA and art. 7, subparagraph (c) of the LGT);

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6. In accordance with article 2, paragraph 1 of the Strike Law, a strike is “the collective refusal by workers, in whole or in part, to perform work, whether continuous or discontinuous, in a concerted and temporary manner”. Thus, workers may declare a strike whenever economic, social or professional interests linked to the work situation are at stake.

The Permanent Mission further recognizes the importance of social dialogue and collective bargaining. However, difficulties in interpreting Convention No. 87 pose a risk to its effective implementation for the benefit of workers.

As a result, the Permanent Mission expresses its support for the holding of an urgent debate on the outstanding issue of the interpretation of Convention No. 87 and is in favour of its inclusion on the agenda of the 349th Session of the Governing Body, which will take place in November 2023.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office and international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Director-General the assurances of its highest consideration.



**TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

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GENEVA