



Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Angola to the United Nations

**REMARKS BY  
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**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING  
FOR THE  
LAUNCH OF THE “GROUP OF FRIENDS OF DECENT  
WORK FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT”**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Today, we have heard a strong call from world leaders for positioning employment and decent work for all at the centre of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The quest for better jobs and for decent work opportunities is a common endeavour both for developed and developing countries, and in order to be credible, the post-2015 development agenda must address this challenge.
- Youth employment, including employment for women and girls, is one of the most pressing issues of our times. In Africa, the continent with the youngest population, the creation of decent job opportunities for youths is on the top of the political agenda in most countries.
- Tackling youth unemployment is a fundamental social and economic challenge, as well as a major issue in the national, regional and global security agenda.
- The lack of decent job opportunities for youths is a major cause of increasing violence and criminality, especially in urban areas, while concurring to destabilize governments and institutions.
- If we desire peace, we must cultivate social justice: these words were engraved in the original ILO building in Geneva. Such proclamation, translated to present times, should be: “if we want peace and security, we must promote decent employment for youths”.
- Employment, free competition, social justice and sustainability are the four pillars of the Angolan Social and Economic Development Programme.
- There is no employment without competitiveness and economic growth. Nevertheless, economic growth by itself does not suffice to create decent employment or promote social justice and development.

- Substantial progress under the new agenda will require: i) a combination of policies to promote economic growth through economic reforms; ii) productive investment and private sector development; iii) ensuring that the jobs that are generated are decent - i.e. provide to those who can access them the chance to get out of poverty.
- Angola supports the idea that decent and inclusive work for all must be complemented by meaningful and action-oriented targets covering core areas, namely: i) youth employment, and its extension to women and girls, especially in rural areas; ii) social security; iii) worker's rights; iv) child and forced labour; v) business development; vi) entrepreneurship and vii) skills development.
- We are very pleased to preside over the ILO Governing Body for 2014-2015 and, in this capacity, we would like to formally announce, together with Minister Jean Pascal Labille, the establishment of the **Group of Friends of Decent Work for Sustainable Development**.
- The Group will serve as a platform for the exchange of views and the coordination of positions on the role of decent work in the upcoming negotiations of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. All member states are kindly invited to join us!
- Let's work together for a better world with decent employment opportunities, peace and prosperity for all!

Thank you!