

**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA – KINGDOM OF NORWAY**



**BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**LUANDA SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

**FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**



On 11 September 2019, the Republic of Angola and the Kingdom of Norway met in Luanda for the Bilateral Dialogue on Human Rights, under the Memorandum of Understanding on Public Consultations, a framework for dialogue and cooperation based on common interests and shared values. The Human Rights dialogue has covered a broad spectrum of issues such as, the National Strategy for Human Rights; multilateral cooperation on human rights in the global context; Angola's progress in the field of human rights; Civil and Politics Rights, press freedom; local elections 2020; the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the follow-up on the recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle; efforts in the United Nations against the death penalty; combating the discrimination, among others.

The opening of the meeting was made by His Excellency Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Dr. Francisco Manuel Monteiro de Queiroz and the working session was chaired by the Secretary of State for Human Rights and citizenship, Dr. Ana Celeste Cardoso Januário, on the Angolan side and by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Marianne Hagen, on the Norwegian side.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COOPERATION**

The participants maintained an open dialogue and agreed to continue to protect and promote human rights in national and international forums, including defending a rules based international order and on the UN and the African Union human rights systems.

Angola and Norway welcomed the growing quality of their human rights dialogue and reiterated their commitment to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council, in which both Norway and Angola are subject to reviews. In 2019 Angola presented an

overview of the National Strategy on Human Rights and the participants welcomed the progress already achieved, including the guarantee of freedom of expression and the principle of equality and non-discrimination, the strengthening of the dialogue with the civil society in Angola, and the ratification of the main international treaties on Human Rights, including the II protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The parties committed themselves to further cooperate to protect and promote Human Rights. Norway underlined the links between the practical implementation of human rights, the ability to attract responsible foreign investors and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The National Human Rights Strategy will be the principal document for cooperation in this area. It is Angola's interest to work with Norway in theorizing the principles, rules and objectives of the strategy.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The participants reiterated their full commitment to maintaining the Bilateral Dialogue on Human Rights as a forum for constructive dialogue and cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect, openness, democracy, rule of law and transparency. Such partnership could enable fruitful cooperation with a view to address internal and global Human Rights challenges, in the interest of both Angola and Norway.

The parties agreed on the need to fully utilize existing instruments to strengthen cooperation in this area. The Dialogue should also continue to offer a privileged forum for high-level dialogue and concrete cooperation activities on issues related to the promotion of a culture of human rights.

The participants agreed that the next bilateral dialogue shall take place in Norway-Oslo in 2020.