STATEMENT BY H.E.
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MINISTER OF HEALTH OF ANGOLA

73rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GLOBAL SESSION
Excellency, Madam President of the World Health Assembly
Mr. Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Honorable members of the World Health Assembly.
Our warm greetings.

First of all, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the opportunity to participate in this event and seize it to greet this great Assembly, convinced that it will provide precise guidelines to control the current COVID-19 Pandemic that afflicts us all and that will add substantial value for the benefit of world health.

Our thanks are extended to the WHO for the pertinence of the alert addressed to African countries in the initial phase of the Pandemic and the prestigious assistance that has been provided, given the specific challenges and fragility of health systems in our region.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

This year we are meeting in a different way in a very complex sanitary, social and economic context that requires from our countries, individually and collectively to find innovative and pragmatic strategies to respond to the challenges never experienced in the recent history of Humanity.

Excellencies

Angola, like the other countries is in demographic, epidemiological and economic transition, with a health system having several challenges in parallel with high levels of trade with the Republic of China. The country started in February this year, the implementation of a series of prevention and preparedness measures against COVID-19 as soon as it became aware of the occurrence of a major epidemic in that country.

The executive adopted a National Multisectoral Contingency Plan with specific financing resources allocated by the Ministry of Finance (of Angola).

Initial measures consisted of closing borders, banning commercial and private passenger flights from Angola to abroad and vice versa,
institution of mandatory quarantine (institutional and home) with surveillance of passengers on humanitarian flights, transport of goods, support for health care and strengthening epidemiological surveillance of suspected cases and their contacts.

Also, subsequent measures consisted of: (1) Declaration of State of Emergency and publication of Presidential Decrees; (2) establishment of the Interministerial Commission coordinated by the Presidential Office as well as other Executive Decrees were approved with specific measures aimed at delaying the introduction and transmission of the virus, the spread of the pandemic throughout the country, protecting the most vulnerable population and the functioning of the economy.

MR. PRESIDENT

The early implementation of these measures, in addition to home confinement, social distance, hands hygiene, wearing masks and an extensive information campaign on the evolution of the epidemic, among others, has allowed the situation to be controlled. Today, we register with 52 cases (registered) so far confirmed, 3 deaths, 32 active cases, 17 recovered patients and 803 citizens followed in quarantine in 6 provinces.

The National Institute for Health Research has already processed 5,978 tests, of which 5,521 were negative, but we are very concerned about the community transmission phase because we do not have enough tests for mass testing.

The big challenge for Angola is the wide screening in population groups at risk for the characterization of the community circulation of the virus (in our country), We therefore, take this opportunity to ask for the support of WHO in this area as well as the strengthening of mechanisms to improve cross border health surveillance within the framework of the International Health regulations.

I seize also this opportunity to express Angola’s support to the draft resolution on the “COVID -19 Response” submitted to the WHA73 as well as to associate ourselves with statements delivered by the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and concur as well with the deliberations proposed by the WHO Executive Board.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my thanks for the support we have received from other partners of the United Nations and
international cooperation and commend the WHO Director-General for the leadership and the Secretariat for their commitments to achieving global health.

(Good health for all or Best health for all)

THANK YOU