

## **UPR of Angola**

**12 February 2010**

### **Statement by Norway**

Norway thanks the delegation of Angola for the National Report and the presentation.

Norway welcomes the participation of women in parliament and government after the recent elections. We recommend continuing the good work of providing legislation and policies for gender equality in line with international obligations, in particular regarding violence against women and their heritage rights, and policies for women's education, health and equal access to training and labour markets.

We acknowledge significant strides in ratification of human rights conventions and protocols. In that respect, we recommend that Angola:

- (1) submits overdue reports to UN Treaty Bodies,
- (2) facilitates visits requested by the Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing, freedom of opinion and expression, and independence of judges and lawyers, and
- (3) co-operates with the UN country team on improving implementation of obligations.

Norway strongly believes that participation of civil society is essential for a meaningful UPR process. We recommend that Angola establishes an effective and inclusive process to follow-up on UPR recommendations.

In view of organizations that have waited a very long time for their legal registration, we recommend the Government to make procedures for registration of civil society organisations transparent, non-discriminatory and expeditious.

Norway is concerned about reports of intimidation, harassment and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders and independent journalists. In pursuit of a well functioning democracy, we recommend the Government:

- (1) to ensure countrywide respect for freedom of expression and improve the working conditions for the press and radio broadcasting, and
- (2) to pursue an open dialogue with human rights defenders, in particular in Cabinda, where, in the aftermath of the recent deplorable attack on the Togolese football-team, human rights defenders are reportedly detained without evidence as to their complicity.

We recommend that the Government considers partnership in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the EITI, as a measure against corruption and a means towards poverty reduction.