SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH OF ANGOLA

(Greetings depending on the persons sitting at the high table)

Presentation (title name .............). representing Mrs. Minister of Health of Angola, (Silvia Lutucuta) who by overlapping agenda could not be here with us. Let me also, on behalf of the Angolan Government, wish welcome to Ms. Winnie Byanyima as the new EXECUTIVE Director of UNAIDS. She may count on our support for the success of her career in this new challenge.

With regards to the Global Prevention Coalition on HIV, Angola has established a multidisciplinary team that has been working to implement the different aspects of the roadmap. I want to remember that out of the 5 pillars of the Prevention Strategy, in Angola, we decided to implement three, because the Male Medical Circumcision is a cultural practice and we still do not have the structural conditions created to implement the PrEP.

During the last two years, we have expanded the hospital network and today we have more health units to diagnose and treat HIV/AIDS.

The health centers, up to the municipal level, have been equipped with new equipment and a World Bank project is underway to rehabilitate more than hundred health units. Within days, we will install in the provincial hospital of Benguela a powerful viral load machine with capacity to meet the demands of six provinces.

Next year, we will have the Population Census and we are working with the National Institute of Statistics to include IIMS. (Multiple Health Indicators Survey). The extension of the DHIS2 system is already underway, thus enabling to improve data collection and analysis. The introduction of the Index Case goes in the same direction.

The Project “Born Free to Shine”, under the leadership of the First Lady of the Republic, with a strategy over 3 years, came to help in the fight against AIDS, and will allow a considerable improvement in the indicators of transmission of the virus from mother to child.

The reactivation of the National Commission to Fight AIDS and the Grand Endemics, an organ headed by the President of the Republic, is further a proof of the engagement of the Angolan executive to end AIDS as a public health concern by 2030.
To summarize, my government is committed to:

- Provide special attention to vulnerable populations and the key populations, elaborating disaggregated data studies to develop minimum packages for care and treatments;

- Review the government financial contributions in the context of sustainability of the response in the medium-term;

- Involve more the civil society organizations in prevention programmes creating more service deliveries;

- Establish periodic mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the multisectoral responses.

Finally, I would like to thank the partnership of UNAIDS and UNFPA in this process as well as all other national and international partners.

Thank you very much.