

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HONORABLE MP MARA IDALINA
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REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**HONORABLE SPEAKERS OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS
PRESENT HERE TODAY;
DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF DELEGATIONS;
HONORABLE PARLIAMENTARIANS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

First and foremost, allow me, on behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of Angola, in representation of His Excellency the Speaker of the National Assembly, to extend our warm greetings and recognition to you all, by providing the excellent working conditions for the holding of this important Assembly.

I avail of this opportunity to add my voice to the speakers of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), because the Portuguese language, has not yet been accepted as a working language of the UIP, thereby limiting the possibility of a community with more than 280 million people, express themselves in their mother tongue and it is the 4th most spoken language in the world.

Mr. President,

The theme proposed for the General Debate, responds unequivocally to the current demands placed on our States in the instrumental use of science and technologies to promote the improvement of the quality of life for the populations and the establishment of lasting peace. Therefore, the STEM is the fundamental tool, available to parliamentarians to realize the promotion of peace and well-being of those represented. In fact, the role of political representation that affects us, impels to the successful creativity, with a view to an adequate use of these tools.

The achievement of peace, stability and development, depends on concerted actions with governments and civil society, driven by our legislative initiatives and other acts that have an end in the human being.

Globally, our countries are mostly made up of young people and women with a natural need for social affirmation. In this perspective, it is imperative that parliamentarians influence their respective governments, through public policies, for the massive promotion of the vocational orientation of young people and women to science and technology, with programmatic, competitive contents, adopted at different levels of education and teaching.

Positive cultural realities, must be fostered and integrated into scientific and technological development plans, so that individuals can be motivated to participate in the whole process of expansion of science and technology, because it is important, on the one hand, to remove any cultural obstacles, and, on the other hand, the educational insertion of young people and women, in order to spread the education in a more effective way, aimed at modifying the current systems of scientific and technological development, which produce inequalities and increase poverty in the majority of the populations.

Parliamentarians, should stimulate the flourishing of scientific and technological development, taking into account the well-being of the people, rather than egocentric economic interests. It is necessary to radically change the current unequal paradigm of development, which from the beginning of civilization, harms some countries to the detriment of others. Thus, for technological development to serve all nation, it is essential to adopt cooperation policies, based on the principle of reciprocity of benefits between States. Only in this way science and technology, will bring benefits to humanity, instead of privileging only a few States.

Excellencies,

The Republic of Angola is experiencing today a new political cycle, since September 2017, with the election of the new President of the Republic. This cycle has opened up excellent political, economic and social perspectives. Our country is engaged in promoting good governance practices and transparency in government action.

The National Development Plan, designed for the five-year period 2018-2022, establishes concrete actions in the field of science and technology, as essential means for achieving social development, peace and stability in the country.

This plan, drawn up on the basis of the United Nations 2030 and the African Union's 2063 agenda, emphasizes, in Objectives 17,18 and 25, the need to empower women and youth, safeguard children's rights, to create conditions for learning, reduce youth unemployment and combat all forms of violence and discrimination respectively.

The National Development Plan foresees, in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), to train about 166 thousand higher technicians by 2022, an average of 33 thousand technicians per year.

In this regard, a word of thanks to the People's Republic of China, which offered 500 scholarships to young Angolans in various areas of knowledge.

In order to meet the objectives achieved in this field, I would like to highlight other measures, no less important in several areas, such as:

- In the institutional domain, with the establishment and development of technical-scientific research institutions and their partnership with universities;
- In financial and administrative terms with tax incentives for the development of the private sector, where we also highlight the approval of the Private Investment and Competition laws, whose regulations were approved a few days ago;
- In the area of justice, with justice reform, especially to adapt it to new trends in ICTs, among others.

Mr. President,

We would like to reiterate our conviction that, IPU is an institutional communication platform, where knowledge sharing, must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals, particularly in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

However, it is necessary that, aware of the scale of the challenges, we do our part, ensuring that budgets direct sufficient resources for the realization of the targets outlined. To this end, we need to establish and deepen parliamentary diplomacy to achieve the desired objectives.

I Thank you for your kind attention!