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PRESS RELEASE

Luanda, Angola, 14 September 2018 – Wide inequalities in people’s well-being cast a shadow on sustained human development progress in the world, according to the UNDP 2018 Statistical Update on Human Development Indices and Indicators, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) this Friday, September 14, in New York.

The latest Human Development Index (HDI) shows that people living in the very high human development countries can expect to live 19 years longer, and spend seven more years in school, than those living in the group of low human development countries.

Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany lead the ranking of 189 countries and territories in the latest Human Development Index (HDI), while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI’s measurement of national achievements in health, education and income. Average HDI levels have risen significantly since 1990 – 22 percent globally and 51 percent in least developed countries – reflecting that on average people are living longer, are more educated and have greater income. But there remain massive differences across the world in people’s well-being.

“On average, a child born today in a country with low human development can expect to live just over 60 years, while a child born in a country with very high human development can expect to live to almost 80. Similarly, children in low human development countries can expect to be in school seven years less than children in very high human development countries,” said Achim Steiner UNDP Administrator.

“While there is ground for optimism that the gaps are narrowing, disparities in people’s well-being are still unacceptably wide. Inequality in all its forms and dimensions, between and within countries, limits people’s choices and opportunities, withholding progress,” said Selim Jahan, Director of the Human Development Report Office at UNDP.

Gender gaps in early years are closing, but inequalities persist in adulthood. Worldwide the average HDI for women is six percent lower than for men, due to women’s lower income and educational attainment in many countries. Global labor force participation rates for women are lower than for men – 49 percent versus 75 percent. Overall, women’s share of parliamentary seats remains low although it varies across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa’s adolescent birth rate is more than twice the world average of 44 per 1,000 live births.

According to the report, the Sub-Saharan Africa region has seen a 35 percent growth in HDI since 1990. Twelve countries in the region are now in the medium human development group, and four countries – Botswana, Gabon, Mauritius and Seychelles – are now in the high human development group. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest regional loss due to inequality (31 percent). Rwanda has the largest share of seats in parliament in the world held by women (55.7 percent).

UNDP in the Republic of Angola

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Luanda, Angola, 14 September 2018 – Angola: Rising from low to medium human development with inequality limiting benefits. According to the UNDP 2018 Statistical Update on Human Development Indices and Indicators, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) this Friday, September 14, in New York. Angola rises from low to medium human development ranking, mainly as result of increase in life expectancy. The latest data shows that a child born in Angola has a life expectancy at birth of 61.8 year, 20.5 years less than a child born in Norway, which ranks as first in the Human Development Index (HDI 0.953), and 9.6 more than one born in Sierra Leone (HDI 0.423).

Angola's HDI value for 2017 is 0.581— which puts the country in the medium human development category—positioning it at 147 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 2000 and 2017, Angola's HDI value increased from 0.387 to 0.581, an increase of 50.2 percent. Between 1990 and 2017, Angola's life expectancy at birth increased by 20.1 years, mean years of schooling increased by 0.7 years and expected years of schooling increased by 8.0 years. Angola's gross national income (GNI) per capita increased by about 182.4 percent between 1990 and 2017.

However, when the Angola HDI value (0.581) is discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.393, a loss of 32.4 percent due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. Angola loses 16 positions in the HDI rank when the GNI per capita is adjusted for inequality. The average loss due to inequality for medium HDI countries is 25.1 percent and for Sub-Saharan Africa it is 30.8 percent. As mentioned, by Selim Jahan, Director of the Human Development Report Office of UNDP, when referring to world human development performance: *“while there is ground for optimism that the gaps are narrowing, disparities in people's well-being are still unacceptably wide. Inequality in all its forms and dimensions, between and within countries, limits people's choices and opportunities, withholding progress”*.

In terms of gender equality, the publication reports that Angolan women have longer life expectancy at birth (64.7 years old) than men (59 years old). However, men have more expected years of schooling (12.7) than women (11.0), as well as higher gross national income per-capita, with US\$ 6,546 versus than women with US\$ 5,063. Women held 30.5% of share in parliament in 2017, which slightly lower than 36.8% in 2015.

Lower infant and under-five mortality rates are reported in 2017 compared to 2015. Higher malaria and tuberculosis incidence rates are reported.

In relation to other African countries, Angola HDI is slightly higher than, oil producer, Nigeria and lower than other Middle-Income Countries like Botswana (0.717) and Cabo Verde (0.654). South Africa, and, than Namibia presented HDIs of 0.699 and 0.647 respectively.