

Committee: Health committee

Question: Obesity

Submitter: Angola

Obesity is an important issue nowadays in most developed countries: according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, including countries with high-income economies and a very high Human Development) the majority of the population in its area, and one in five children, are overweight or obese. The obesity problem has become even worse in the past 5 years, and it is still increasing now even if it is at a slower pace. Also, obesity contributes mainly to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and deaths from NCDs are projected to increase 77% between 1990 and 2020, expanding from 28.1 million to 49.7 million deaths annually.

Angola is aware that its obesity adult prevalence rate didn't exceed 6,4% of its population in 2008 but is really concerned by the overconsumption of certain developed countries. As an example, the United State's obesity adult prevalence rate reached 33% of its population in 2008 and more than 60% of the American population is overweight or obese. However, we note that globalization does not equally share food consumption on an international level.

Our country would like to state that even though its population is mainly not obese, it will follow as all the other countries should, the measures that were explained during the 12th International Congress on Obesity that took place in Kuala Lumpur in 2014 and is sincerely concerned about the rising global pandemic of obesity and its related diseases. Angola would like to remind that, with the expansion of this pandemic as well as the increase in development of poor countries, obesity is now spreading worldwide.

Rather than indicating prosperity and progress, the increase of body fatness and obesity now shows one of the consequences of urbanisation, globalisation, and the expansion of the industrialisation of the food supply. It concerns the ones with high incomes, but also the poorest and the most vulnerable. Many countries, still dealing with problems of hunger, starvation and undernutrition are now also dealing with an increase in overweightness and obesity among children and adults.

Our country reckons that the international community must take measures to insure healthy behaviors inside nations, and support the wellbeing of populations while ensuring that member countries will respect the standards applied by the United Nations.

Angola will support every convention to come and every convention that already took place on the subject of obesity like the 2014 World obesity conference. We always tried to fight social or human inequalities in our country and so will we on an international scale. We will try to help other countries as much as we can, while still fighting against undernutrition, hunger, starvation as well as overweightness and obesity.