

**Subject: Urgent Appeal Regarding Law No. 2/26 on Non-Governmental Organisations in Angola**

Dear Ms. Romero,  
Dear Ms. Lawlor,

As a German organization engaged since its founding in solidarity work with countries in Southern Africa within the European context, we are writing to request your urgent intervention with regard to recent developments in Angola.

On 2 March 2026, the Angolan government adopted Law No. 2/26 on Non-Governmental Organisations. During a visit to Angola in February, our organization held extensive consultations with human rights and civil society organizations in Luanda. These discussions clearly indicate that the new law will further restrict the already limited civic space in the country.

Even prior to the adoption of this law, civil society organizations and citizens in Angola have faced significant challenges in exercising their constitutional rights to freedom of association and expression. On key issues—such as compensation in the context of resettlement linked to large-scale infrastructure or extractive projects, transparency in electoral processes, growing inequality despite national wealth, and the fight against corruption—critical voices are frequently met with repression.

The newly adopted law is expected to significantly hinder both the functioning and the financing of NGOs. Our analysis confirms that it restricts fundamental freedoms and opens the door to arbitrary state action, notably by enabling the executive to suspend organizations without due process. Furthermore, it is likely to exacerbate the already precarious financial situation of many Angolan NGOs by introducing additional barriers to accessing international funding. Combined with disproportionate administrative requirements, this will divert scarce human resources away from substantive work, undermining NGOs' ability to act as independent voices for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

In our assessment, the law's primary objective is not to ensure appropriate regulation of the sector, as claimed, but rather to weaken critical civil society actors and create space for organizations aligned with government interests. The justification based on compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF/GAFI) requirements is not convincing, as there is no evidence that the targeted NGOs—whose activities are generally small-scale and transparent—are involved in money laundering or terrorist financing. Addressing such risks should instead focus on the financial and corporate sectors.

Given that Angola already has sufficient legal frameworks in place for the registration and oversight of NGOs, the adoption of this law raises serious concerns regarding its necessity and proportionality.

We therefore respectfully urge you to use all available mandates and instruments at your disposal to prevent the entry into force of this law. A public statement from your offices could play a crucial role in ensuring that any forthcoming constitutional review process is conducted independently and without political interference.

We remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,