Friends Of Angola
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The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

March 21, 2025

Subject: Urgent Appeal for the Continuity of Voice of America

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I write to you today with deep concern regarding the future of *Voice of America* (VOA) and to urge your strong support for its continued operation. Throughout its history, VOA has been an indispensable tool in promoting democracy, free speech, and unbiased journalism across the globe, particularly in regions where press freedom is under constant threat.

During the Cold War, VOA played a pivotal role in countering authoritarian narratives, providing truthful reporting, and supporting the democratic aspirations of millions living under oppressive regimes. In countries like Angola, where the struggle for democracy and free press remains ongoing, VOA continues to serve as a beacon of hope for those seeking reliable information in the face of censorship and propaganda.

Angola, like many other nations, continues to grapple with significant challenges in preserving press freedom. Journalists frequently face harassment, independent media outlets struggle to survive, and government control over information remains a pressing concern. Voice of America's ability to broadcast in multiple languages, including Portuguese, has been instrumental in this landscape, providing the people of Angola and beyond with reliable, fact-based news—including coverage of the current U.S. administration. By fostering transparency and empowering civil society to hold their governments accountable, VOA plays a vital role in defending democratic values and free expression.

A reduction or cessation of VOA's services would create an alarming void, one that would likely be filled by disinformation and state-controlled media. At a time when autocratic influences are expanding and digital disinformation campaigns are becoming more sophisticated, the need for VOA's presence has never been more urgent.

I respectfully urge you to champion the continued funding and operational support of *Voice of America*. Its mission aligns directly with America's longstanding commitment to defending human rights, democracy, and

freedom of expression worldwide. By preserving VOA, the United States reinforces its dedication to these ideals and ensures that the voices of the oppressed continue to be heard.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your leadership in safeguarding this vital institution.

Sincerely,



Florindo Chivucute
Executive Director
Friends of Angola