



Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Oldemiro Baloi
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Republic of Mozambique**

at the

**General Debate of the 69th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

On the theme

***“Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative
Post-2015 Development Agenda”***

New York, 27th September 2014

Mr. President
Mr. Secretary-General
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour for me to address the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Armando Emílio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique, who could not attend this august gathering due to national commitments. However, he wishes this session of General Assembly successful deliberations.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Sam Kutesa, a distinguished son from our sisterly country, Uganda, on his unanimous election to preside over this session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President, we firmly believe that your vision, wisdom and leadership will guide us to a comprehensive and result oriented transformative development agenda. I take this opportunity, to assure you, Mr. President, of the full support and collaboration of the Delegation of Mozambique in the fulfilment of your noble mission.

I also wish to pay our tribute to His Excellency Ambassador John William Ashe, for his devotion and for the pragmatic manner in which he presided over the 68th session of this august body, and for his relentless efforts to constructively guide the on-going debate on the architecture of the next development agenda.

Mr. President

2015 will be a historical year, since the United Nations will reach a monument landmark namely: the celebration of its seventieth (70th) anniversary. This celebration will be enriched by the goal set in the year 2000, to halve poverty rates in the world by the year 2015, the conclusion of the next development agenda, and the adoption of a new framework for climate change.

In this regard, we welcome the theme of this General Assembly - "*Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda*" as it will enhance the on-going deliberations, under the United Nations umbrella, on the next development agenda, galvanized by the regional and sub-regional visions on this important matter.

In our deliberations, the results and challenges experienced in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will, without a doubt, be of reference to shape the next development agenda.

We recognize that much has been done in the framework of the MDGs. However, apart from accelerating the achievement of all goals, it is important to guarantee the sustainability of those that were achieved and accelerate the implementation of those that are still lagging behind.

It is our strong belief that the principle of inclusiveness must also be taken into consideration, in order to build a common vision and to ensure global commitments and shared responsibilities in the implementation of the next development agenda.

To this end, Mozambique undertook a national consultation process on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a process that echoes our vision that sustainable development can only be achieved with a shared responsibility between governments, civil society and private sector.

Mozambique's national consultation process resulted in a robust call for the next development agenda to list the eradication of poverty as its overarching objective. To this end, it should ensure the promotion of equitable, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, focusing on women and youth.

The consultation also emphasized the need for the following:

- ✓ Eradication of poverty and hunger, translated in the improvement of living standards through the access to better social services, such as education, health, social welfare, safe drinking water, sanitation and energy;
- ✓ Preservation of peace and political stability, promotion of democracy and human rights protection;
- ✓ Economic diversification and transformation to speed-up technological modernization in sectors such as agriculture, industry, tourism and infra-structures;
- ✓ Protection of marine and land biodiversity, including sustainable use of natural resources;
- ✓ Effective partnership for development, particularly for access to science, technology and innovation;
- ✓ Further enhancement North-South cooperation, in the framework of global partnership, in order to commit the developed countries to meet their

- internationally agreed development goals obligations;
- ✓ Strengthening of South-South cooperation; and
- ✓ Agreement on a common methodology to monitor and evaluate national progress.

In addition, the experiences and challenges we faced in the implementation of the MDGs, particularly in the accomplishment of Goal 8 – *A global partnership for development*, underline the need for a greater commitment of our development partners to increase their Official Development Assistance and for funding climate resilience and disaster prevention efforts in developing countries. In this regard, *a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda* should include the need to strengthen its financing mechanisms, concomitant with the need to raise the contribution of domestic financing.

These expectations coincide with the emerging common vision at sub-regional, regional and global levels. Therefore, in our view, it is a premonition that the agenda will be adequately inclusive and bring the much needed transformation to deliver a world that is truly fit for all.

Mr. President

At this critical juncture, the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round is a matter of urgency. Its contribution to the materialization of the development agenda, as a whole, cannot be overemphasized. In this regard, we are encouraged by the WTO attempts to restore the Doha negotiations and by the adoption of the *Bali Package*, fundamental steps in the architecture of the Doha Round.

We are also encouraged by the positive trends in the development of Africa. As the Secretary General states in his report on the *Work of the Organization*, Africa continues to make steady development gains. Economic growth reached 4% in 2013 and is projected to reach 5.3% in 2014. Foreign direct investment increased and substantial progress has been made towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President

If these positive developments are to be sustained, a transformative development agenda should reflect Africa's priorities and special needs, as expressed in its common position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In addition, this encouraging environment can only be possible in the context of peace, political stability, democracy and respect for human rights. Therefore, we regret that conflict prevention, peacekeeping and rebuilding of war-torn states remain among the most complex challenges facing the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

Indeed, this session takes place in a context of grave instability and conflicts in the world, with enormous economic costs and severe humanitarian consequences that are unacceptable. Additionally the complexity of some of the conflicts poses a challenge to the authority of the United Nations and, consequently undermines the founding principles of the Organization as well as the role of multilateralism in addressing global concerns.

We have been challenged by the dramatic evolution in the strands of terrorism threats, which spare no part of the world. Therefore, Mozambique welcomes the result of the Security Council session held on 24th September 2014 that calls for an urgent boost, in international cooperation, to prevent the support and flow of terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones.

As we craft our collective strategy to deal with all forms of manifestation of this human scourge, we should not lose sight of the following elements:

- ✓ Strengthen multilateral approaches in full compliance to the United Nations Charter
- ✓ Address the root causes of terrorism. This scourge cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization
- ✓ Address the underlying conditions such as poverty, injustice, social exclusion and marginalization that serve as a fertile ground for extremist ideologies to breed and thrive.

In an interdependent and globalized world, multilateralism refers to collective and cooperative actions needed to address global challenges in a transparent, inclusive and effective manner, thus contributing to order, stability and predictability.

In this context, the United Nations must be strengthened in order to continue to effectively play its role as the epicenter of multilateralism. To this end, today more than ever before, we must take concrete actions to reinforce the strategic role of the United Nations in the architecture of the global governance.

Notwithstanding the prevailing challenges to the maintenance of international peace and security, we are encouraged by the efforts in place towards the restoration of peace and stability in Mali, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of

Congo, the Central African Republic, the Sudan and South Sudan.

We are also encouraged by the latest developments in Guinea-Bissau, as a result of the general elections that brought about promising first steps towards the much needed political stability, precondition for this sisterly country to progress towards the socio-economic development.

These achievements call our attention to the importance of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union and, indeed, with the sub-regional bodies, to effectively address the range of conflict management problems, through preventive diplomacy and mediation initiatives that allow for rapid responses to regional and sub-regional crises.

Mr. President

The principle of the right to self-determination continues to be central to the full enjoyment of human rights. In this context, the United Nations ought to continue to be engaged in the fulfillment of these rights by the peoples of Palestine and Western Sahara.

Mozambique reiterates its full support to a just and lasting solution to the problem of Palestine through peaceful means, in accordance with the International Law and all the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations.

On the Western Sahara, we note with encouragement the new initiative taken by the Chairperson of the African Union to appoint H.E. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique, as a Special Envoy to the P5+Spain, an effort to step up the search for a solution that will ensure the fulfilment of the right of the Saharaoui people to self-determination, to which Mozambique reaffirms its unconditional support.

Mr. President,

As I mentioned at the beginning of my statement, the advent of 2015 represents an historic opportunity for the United Nations to reshape global commitments in many ways. As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations we must seize the momentum to make concrete steps to accelerate, in a sustained manner, the on-going process of reforms in the organization, in particular the reform of the Security Council.

The United Nations inability to solve conflict situations and political instability in the Middle East and Eastern Europe poses a challenge to its authority as the

universal entity and multilateral political forum to foster dialogue in the framework of multilateralism.

This situation is worsened by the lack of substantive progress in the reform of the Security Council, almost fifteen years after the international community recommitted itself to this important endeavour.

It is our hope that the 69th session of the General Assembly will deliver the much awaited reform to democratize its representation and working methods and strengthen its role in the prevention of conflict and promotion of international peace and security.

Mr. President

Freedom of choice of political system and of trade is an inalienable right of all states, irrespective of their size. In this regard, the need to bring to an end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba continues to be a matter of concern, for it is politically motivated and hinders the socio-economic development of Cuba. For these reasons, Mozambique associates itself with all those countries that demand the immediate termination of this unfair unilateral measure.

Mr. President

Mozambique is fully committed to the global agenda for peace and security, democracy and sustainable development.

At the national level, this commitment is translated by our political will to strengthen democracy in the country and the adoption of a poverty reduction strategy that is people-centered and promote sustainable development.

The regularity with which elections at different levels are held shows our unquestionable determination to consolidate the democratic system and defend its underlying values. As a result, on 15 October this year, Mozambique will hold its 5th multiparty general elections to elect the President and the Parliament and the 2nd elections for Provincial Parliaments.

On the economic sphere, Mozambique has enjoyed a steady economic growth for more than a decade which, coupled with the support of our development partners, including the United Nations, allowed for the improvement of the delivery of social services and enabled us to be on track on the attainment of the majority of

the MDGs.

In addition, the natural resources recently discovered represent a challenge and an opportunity to further advance national socio-economic progress. The development of new sources of clean and renewable energy such as bio-fuels is a priority for the Government and due attention is being given to prevent competition with food production initiatives.

Therefore, emphasis is being put on the following aspects:

- ✓ Improvement of agriculture production and productivity in a sector that will continue to play a key role in our development efforts;
- ✓ Human capital development to address the new emerging economic challenges;
- ✓ Promotion of a strong private sector to take advantage of the opportunities brought about by the discovery and exploitation of the natural resources;

It is our firm conviction that with peace and stability we will continue to successfully address the development challenges facing Mozambique, which have poverty eradication and sustainable development as the epicentre.

Mr. President

As part of our commitment to peace and stability, in June, Mozambique hosted the Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, also known as Ottawa Convention.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank all participants, as well as all partners that made this event a successful one.

We are engaged to continue our efforts to declare the country free of land-mines, and thus contributing to fulfil one of the most important steps of our obligations under the Convention.

Mr. President

To conclude, I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to continue engaged in the international efforts to address the current global problems.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!