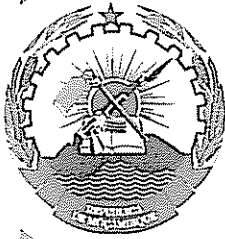


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ADDRESS

By

His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Before

The General Debate

Of the

65th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly

New York, 27 September 2010

Mr. President

Mozambique associates itself with previous speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election to preside over the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. Indeed, we feel confident that your wisdom and diligence will positively lead towards the success of our deliberations.

We reaffirm our commitment to support your presidency and pledge to fully cooperate with you, and all the other members of your Bureau in the discharge of your noble mission.

We also wish to express our gratitude to your predecessor, His Excellency Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, for his commitment to our organization and for his strong leadership to making the United Nations work both productively and effectively during the last General Assembly Session.

Equally, I would like to commend the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, for his engagement in promoting peace and justice, and in particular, for his tireless efforts to mobilize the United Nations family to adequately address global challenges facing the world and the humanity through concerted multilateral approaches.

Mr. President

Recognizing the steering role of the United Nations in global governance, and highly appreciating the wise choice of reflecting this important and timely item during the present debate, I seek your indulgence to seize this opportunity to share some information about developments in Mozambique.

As we are moving steadily towards the strengthening of the democratic institutions in Mozambique, we are proud to see that significant achievements are recorded both in political and in social and economic spheres of the country.

Indeed, thanks to a consolidated political stability that we are currently enjoying in Mozambique, the Government is undertaking a comprehensive Public Sector Reform and decentralization process of the Public Administration.

Similarly, the political and social stability, the good macroeconomic management, supplemented by the attractive investment legislation already in place have contributed immensely to the creation of appropriate conditions for the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development. Our main goal is to eradicate poverty, for it is one of the major challenges facing our people in their efforts to improving their living conditions.

We are fully aware that fighting poverty calls for a capacity to simultaneously address other related challenges, namely: climate change, energy crisis, food security and the global economic and financial crisis whose impacts constitute an enduring challenge, especially for developing economies like Mozambique. All these challenges are inter-related and have multiplier effects on our competitiveness and growth efforts.

Mr. President

The threats posed by the negative impact of climate change in our environment needs to be continuously dealt with as a priority. Moreover, it should be comprehensively addressed at national, sub-regional, regional and international domains. The level of devastation due to problems led by climate change is causing our environment to degrade at an outstanding pace. In fact, Mozambique and many other countries from Sub-Saharan Africa are being ravaged by cyclical natural disasters that destroy major arable lands and by the same token, reduce land productivity. There is no doubt that Small Island Developing Countries face the risk of disappearing from the world map. At the same time, it is also important to recognise the plight of coastal developing countries like Mozambique which are suffering from the raise of sea-levels.

The heavy burden resulting from the adverse effects of climate change constrains the ability of our Governments to allocate the necessary financial and human resources to decisively address environmental related problems. Hence, developing countries, particularly Sub-Saharan countries, do not have the required financial resources to undertake the necessary steps aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change.

To this end, we are committed to continue working in a concerted manner with the international development partners, including the United Nations, and other stakeholders with focus on the creation of adaptation conditions and local community resilience to the impact of climate change.

Bearing in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, we would like to underline that our association with the Copenhagen Accord on Climate Change is precisely based on our understanding that the global nature of climate change demands a true multilateral response. In this regards, we look forward for a successful outcome of the COP 16 to be held in Cancun later this year, and we commend the active role of the Secretary General of the United Nations to ensure a meaningful result of the climate change negotiations.

Mr. President,

In addressing all the aforementioned challenges, strong and able global governance is of the utmost importance to ensure the spurring of the necessary political will needed for concrete actions. In this concern, the United Nations is the only intergovernmental organization with universal character and the ability to mobilize such a capacity. This is why we believe that concrete steps towards the strengthening of the central role of the

United Nations in global governance are required, by providing it with the adequate resources and authority commensurate with its global responsibility to fully respond to the growing global needs.

Mozambique will remain engaged in the ongoing process of reforming the United Nations aimed at ensuring its efficiency and effectiveness, to increase its credibility and legitimacy as a representative of the people of the world.

In this context, the revitalization of the role and the authority of the General Assembly as the most representative and legitimate organ of the United Nations cannot be overemphasized. It is here where everyone is represented and every vote counts to decide on matters of common interest. So, it is here where all the most important decisions should be taken. From issues related to the maintenance of peace and security, the promotion of economic cooperation, social and humanitarian spheres to the promotion of human rights. It is here where all decisions and resolutions taken should abide and be implemented by everyone. Therefore, we need a strong General Assembly, well resourced and with the necessary authority to assume its responsibilities on behalf of the international community.

Another important track of reform that we are very much attached to is the reform of the Security Council. Although there is yet no agreement on the level of attainment, we all agree that the reform of the Security Council should be a priority in the whole United Nations reform process. It is clear that we need a more balanced representation in the Council. Moreover, we are of the view that a more fair and democratic Council in its decisions and actions would adequately cater to the security necessities of the international community.

For a meaningful reform of the Security Council, it is imperative that the historic injustice with regard to the African continent be corrected. Indeed, today, it is no longer acceptable that a continent that represents almost 30% of the whole UN membership and whose concerns constitute more than 60% of the Council's agenda is not represented in the category of permanent member. In this light, Africa deserves to be allocated permanent seats in any Security Council reform, based on the *Ezulwini Consensus*.

There is also a need for a more coherent and effective United Nations system, which is capable to efficiently address and advance durable solutions for the pressing economic, social and humanitarian problems currently facing the world. Member states should also continue to discuss and find measurable solutions on how to ensure coherence between policy decisions and implementation of commitments agreed in the United Nations international conferences and summits in the field of development.

In this regard, Mozambique is proud of the progress made by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence. We commend, in particular, the General Assembly for the major step recently undertaken, with the establishment of UN women. I seize this opportunity to reiterate our congratulations to Her Excellency Mrs. Michelle Bachelet for

her appointment as Under Secretary General of the new entity, and pledge our full support and readiness to collaborate for the successful accomplishment of the task of bringing gender equality and empowerment of women at the helm of the United Nations' work.

It is also a fact that, although we are open to see the result of the independent evaluation of the pilot country's initiative on "Delivering as One", it is our strong belief that the progress made thus far in the implementation of that experience is extremely encouraging. Therefore, we call on the United Nations to support all countries that voluntarily decide to embark in the process of making the UN system work in a more coherent manner at the country level.

Mr. President,

In what concerns the maintenance of international peace and security, Mozambique is committed to continue to share its experience in peaceful resolution of conflicts, particularly in Southern Africa. In our sub-region, we also share important responsibilities in the promotion of peace and security, as well as with regard to the regional integration as part of sub-regional and regional efforts to promote international peace and security, and sustainable development. We advocate for international peace and security because we truly believe that they are part of the enabling conditions that allow countries to concentrate their attention to deal with other pressing needs such as the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, the fight against international crime and drugs, addressing poverty related problems and the promotion of sustainable development.

It is worth to note that, the political situation and the stability in Southern Africa have improved. Indeed, the process of implementing the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe has made significant strides.

We also continue engaged, under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community, to finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Madagascar.

However, Mozambique is concerned that, despite all continued international efforts, it has not been possible to bring peace and stability in the Middle East Region. Mozambique is deeply concerned with the volatile situation in that region, where the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, continue to deprive the Palestinian people from the realization of all their fundamental human rights, including the right to their own land and resources, and to live in peace with all neighbouring countries, including Israel.

In the same vein, Mozambique reiterates its support to the international community efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the problem of the Western Sahara. We also reiterate our support to the right of self determination for the people of Sahara.

Mr. President,

We need a strong United Nations which could play a central role in mobilizing member States and the international community at large to commit and fully contribute to regional and international peace and security and an enabling environment for the promotion of sustainable development.

That is why we believe in multilateralism, and we reiterate our commitment to work in collaboration with all Members states of the United Nations in the pursuit of our common goals to making the world a better place for the whole of humanity.

I thank you for your attention!