



MEDIATION:

**Mechanism for bringing the parties together for greater
sharing of responsibilities**

Address by His Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuza

President of the Republic of Mozambique

at

The 66th Session of UN General Assembly

under the theme

“ The role of mediation in peaceful settlement of disputes”

New York, 21st September 2011

Mr President,

We join the previous speakers in congratulating His Excellency Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser of Qatar, on his election to preside over the Sixty-sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

His long diplomatic experience makes us anticipate that our deliberations will be crowned with success. We take this opportunity to assure him our full availability to give our contribution to the success of this session and wish him success in the discharge of his duties.

We extend our congratulations to his predecessor, Dr. Joseph Deiss, of the Swiss Confederation for his commitment, pragmatism and dynamism in the conduct of the work of the sixty-fifth session.

We also wish to extend our congratulations to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his reappointment to the post of Secretary-General. This reappointment demonstrates the recognition of Member States of the United Nations and the international community as a whole, of commitment to the pursuit and consolidation of peace, security and international development. We are encouraged that, thanks to his full commitment, we will continue to work together, under the aegis of the United Nations, in order to find appropriate solutions to common problems facing the humanity.

We welcome the newest member of the United Nations, the Republic of South Sudan. With this sister country we celebrated her independence and at that time we expressed our congratulations for this important milestone.

Mr President,

This session takes place at a critical stage of human history, characterized, in particular, by:

- ❖ the impact of ongoing global financial and economic crisis;
- ❖ the rising prices of food and oil;
- ❖ the resurgence of hotbeds of tension and political instability, particularly in North Africa and the Middle East;

- ❖ the prevalence of pandemics such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and
- ❖ the increasing occurrence of natural disasters.

These challenges require a multilateral approach in order to find consensual, effective and sustainable responses.

Indeed, the negative impact of these complex phenomena, especially in developing countries, is a potential factor of political and social instability, and it is therefore necessary to focus on democratic principles grounded on dialogue, inclusive governance, accountability and transparency and respect for human rights.

In this context, we commend the choice of the theme that has as its background the role and importance of mediation:

- ❖ for the prevention of violent conflicts;
- ❖ for the search of peaceful solutions, and
- ❖ for the strengthening and consolidation of mutual trust, key factors for building a solid and lasting peace.

We all yearn for a better world where peace and security, harmony and concord reign; a world where everyone's concern is to combat poverty, fight against epidemics, and to promote the welfare and prosperity of humankind.

The proliferation of crises and the perpetuation of dissonant positions rather than seeking solutions to the many problems that affect all humanity, make this dream become increasingly difficult to achieve. Thus, strengthening of multilateralism and global governance of the United Nations is of critical importance.

Mr President,

This session takes place in the year that the Family of the United Nations recalls the fiftieth anniversary of the physical disappearance of the Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and 25 years since the assassination, by apartheid, of our late President Samora Moisés Machel.

These two personalities were lovers and defenders of peace and they lost their lives when seeking peace for countries of our Mother Africa. In honour of these great names and all those who gave their lives to the mediation and preventive diplomacy as a means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, let us all reaffirm our commitment to peace and to redouble our commitment in support to initiatives aimed at building a world free of conflict.

Mediation should be seen as an opportunity to bring together the parties to the dispute, reduce their differences and appeal for conscience so that together they can move towards mutually acceptable peaceful solutions. Mediation cannot be started assuming that we have all the answers; the mediation process should be conducted in an objective, impartial and neutral manner, ensuring the involvement of stakeholders at all stages and their ownership of the process. These are basic principles that ensure the continuity and consolidation of the process of national reconciliation and reconstruction and, more importantly, the building of mutual trust.

Aware of these principles, Mozambique is proud to be part of some positive experiences in different mediation processes in Southern Africa and the African continent. We have thus contributed to help other countries to return to the path leading to social and economic development. We would, therefore, like to appeal to the appreciation of the role of mediation of the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations. **In this context, we would like to salute the recent signing, by the political actors, of the roadmap leading to the return to the constitutional order in Madagascar. This is the culmination of a negotiation process mediated by SADC which started in August 2009.**

Mr President,

The universality of the United Nations gives it a key role in promoting international peace and security by resorting to peaceful means for settlement of disputes.

In this sense, this organization is once again called upon to assume the responsibility entrusted to it in the Charter of the United Nations as a

facilitator of mediation within the concert of nations, through its organs, in particular the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as through the Peacebuilding Commission.

We praise the progress made by the United Nations, whose impact on prevention, mitigation and mediation of internal and inter-state conflicts has been positive. The consolidation of these achievements will be possible through strengthening of the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations with a mandate to safeguard international peace and security, as well as in their relation with regional and sub-regional organizations.

We reaffirm, indeed, our recognition to the role of the regional and sub-regional organizations as pillars in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability through the use of preventive diplomacy and early warning systems.

The African experience has proven that the various regional and sub-regional mediation initiatives have been effective in preventing and managing conflicts and tensions, and in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Mr President,

The United Nations remains the appropriate forum for addressing current challenges, including the peaceful resolution of disputes. However, in order to assume its role effectively, it is essential that our organization completes the ongoing reforms. In this sense, we reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Mozambique to continue to provide relevant input to the reform process that contribute for the United Nations to become more proactive and effective in dealing with global issues, thus contributing to the consolidation of its credibility and legitimacy in the interests of the peoples of the world.

In this regard, we reiterate our interest to see the conclusion of the process of revitalization of the role and authority of the General Assembly as a more representative and legitimate body of the United Nations. It is in this august assembly where we are all represented and

where every vote counts, that the most important decisions of the international agenda, including the peaceful and negotiated settlement of disputes should be taken and evaluated. Only a strong General Assembly, endowed with the necessary authority and competence and adequate resources would be up to these responsibilities and current challenges.

Another important component of the reform that continues to deserve our attention is the Security Council. This body should, in a transparent, inclusive and democratic manner, follow the evolution and dynamics of contemporary global challenges and assume its vital role in building the credibility of the United Nations as a universal entity. We are confident that these reforms will allow greater dialogue and cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council, strengthening the relationship with each other and with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.

Mr President,

We have been following, with due attention the social and political developments in North Africa and the Middle East. We recognize that these developments pose a challenge for countries and regions concerned and also for the international community. We are hopeful that the processes in progress are capitalized on opportunities for the promotion of peace, expansion of freedoms, promoting development and improvement of living conditions of people. We call upon all relevant actors to engage in constructive dialogue and to work for peaceful solutions to ensure peace and stability.

From these developments we learnt the lesson that the use of internal dialogue, regional cooperation, fairness in the interventions of the United Nations should be privileged.

We note with concern the lack of progress in the Israeli-Arab peace process. In this context, we urge the parties to commit themselves to the relaunch of negotiations that are translated into concrete actions with a view to a lasting, comprehensive and fair conflict solution. We reiterate our unequivocal support to the cause of the Palestinian people, who have

been denied the inalienable right to self-determination. We reaffirm our support for the principle of the creation of two states, Palestine and Israel, coexisting peacefully and in accordance with the 1967 borders.

Similarly, we reiterate our support for the commitment of the international community to find a sustainable solution in favour of the people of Western Sahara. We also reiterate our support to their legitimate right to self-determination.

Mr President,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with the brotherly peoples of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, plagued by severe drought and famine.

We praise the efforts of the international community so far carried out to alleviate the suffering and loss of life. Finally, Mr President, we would like to reaffirm the continued engagement and commitment of the Republic of Mozambique to peace, security and stability.

Thank you for your attention!