

**Intervention by His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic  
of Mozambique**

**At**

**the General Debate of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
General assembly of the United Nations,**

**under the theme**

**"Adjustment or resolution of disputes or conflict situations  
through peaceful means"**

New York, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Mr. President,**

It is with great honor that I address this august Assembly and, I join other speakers before me in congratulating His Excellency Vuc Jeremic for his election to preside over the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I am sure that his diplomatic experience will contribute towards the success of the work of this session.

I assure you, Mr. President, the full commitment of the Mozambican delegation to contribute towards the success of this session.

I equally congratulate your predecessor, His Excellency Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, of Qatar, for his commitment and dedication in leading the last Session of the General Assembly.

I equally would like to share with this Assembly our satisfaction for the progress made during the last session's debate under the theme *The role of mediation in the peaceful resolution of disputes*. This theme deserved special attention of the international community in different forums and was highlighted by the adoption, last May, of the Helsinki Final Document which defines the principles regarding the role of the States in the mediation of disputes.

The Helsinki Document and the Manila Declaration, adopted in 1982, under the precedency of peaceful resolution of international disputes, represents the strengthening of the principles that guide States' actions in the search for solutions for disputes through peaceful means.

**Mr. President,**

We salute the timely choice of the theme "Adjustment or resolution of disputes or conflict situations through peaceful means" for debate in this session, at a time that various factors compete for the advent of conflicts. These factors, internal and external in nature, are due to political and/or economic reasons, among which the quest for self-determination, socio-political exclusion, the use of natural resources, wealth distribution, border disputes, cultural and religious intolerance stand out.

Therefore, we believe that conflict resolution should prioritize a holistic approach to conflict factors, through a free and permanent dialogue among the parties in contention, thus following universally accepted principles, such as:

- ✓ A dialogue based on the truth and responsibility of the major stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels;
- ✓ Internal participation aimed at reaching real solution and sustainable development, based in the understanding for the need to strengthen synergies between peace, development and democracy;
- ✓ Fight against poverty and promote sustainable development.

The importance of these principles stem from our experience in the process of reconciliation and peacekeeping, where a constant and an interactive dialogue within the Mozambican society has allowed for the consolidation of national unity, peace and fight against poverty and development to further a participatory democracy.

It is therefore, with pride that Mozambique will celebrate in the coming October 4<sup>th</sup>, 20 years of peace in a continuous atmosphere of stability and economic growth, accomplishments that result from an inclusive dialogue, national reconciliation and the abidance to the principles of democracy, freedom and justice.

**Mr. President,**

The failure of preventive measures led us to resort to mechanisms of conflict management and resolution. For these mechanisms to be successful, we need to reevaluate the mandates and the conventional approaches to peacekeeping operations given the underlying differences in the actual nature of the conflict itself during the establishment of the United Nations Organization. Due to its multidimensional dimension, efforts aimed at the prevention, management and the resolution of current conflicts require the cooperation of different stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, bearing, always, the VIII Chapter of the United Nations Charter.

We believe that the success in the prevention, management and in the resolution of conflicts is directly linked to the understanding of its nature. The measure or facilitation and mediation should have deep knowledge of the nature and the dynamic of the conflict so as to allow for a better analysis, effective action and, ensure to all parts in the conflict that they are an integral part of the solution. In order to pursue these objectives, focus should be placed in the cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations.

**Mr. President,**

We note with concern the persistence of an environment of tension and of instability in Africa, with highlight to the situation in Madagascar, the East of The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan and also in Mali.

In the SADC region, the different conflict resolution processes are based in the regional architecture of the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, which are substantiated within the SADC organ for the cooperation in the political, Defense and Security Organ, instruments that create the conditions for dialogue. To facilitate its intervention in this area, the SADC organ established a Mediation Unit that is based in the participation of a Group of Elders which, through their deep knowledge about the internal dynamics of the countries referred, has been contributing for peacebuilding, security and stability in the SADC region.

The Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and of Government recently held in Maputo, from 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August, deeply examined the ways to improve the intervention of this organization in the prevention, management and the resolution of conflicts, having thus, reiterated their commitment in working with the parts in conflict in the Republic of Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in the Republic of Zimbabwe while at the same time it reinforces its partnership with the International Community.

The mediation efforts of SADC for the resolution of the political deadlock in Madagascar as well as the facilitation process of SADC to the implementation of the Global Political Accord in Zimbabwe, continues to make progress towards the creation of conditions for free, fair and credible elections to take place in both SADC countries.

Regarding Madagascar, the efforts of the Mediation team headed by the former President of the Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, resulted in the signing, by ten of the eleven political groups in Madagascar, of the SADC Road Map to end the political crisis in the country.

In Zimbabwe, the political situation is, in general, characterized by stability, having the inclusive Government made tremendous progress both in the socio-economic as well as in the political areas, where the process for the establishment of a new Constitution, which will guide future elections, is at an advanced stage.

SADC reiterates its appeal for the complete lifting of economic sanctions imposed to Zimbabwe in order to contribute towards the country's economic recovery and that of other countries in the region with which Zimbabwe maintains close economic ties.

However, SADC and the International Community continue to be concerned with the prevailing climate of instability and subsequent humanitarian crises in the East region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The search for lasting solutions for the instability in the East region of the DRC, requires the effort of mechanisms of cooperation between SADC, The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the African Union and the United Nations.

Regarding Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, as the Chair of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), continues to be committed in the search for a viable solution aimed at returning constitutional order to this sisterly country, through internal dialogue and the harmonization of the intervention by the International Community. The People of Guinea-Bissau yearn for peace, stability and development. They want to be masters of their own destiny. This

was the reason they fought for liberation that culminated with the country's independence, whose 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated last 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Regarding Somalia, The Sudan and South Sudan, Mozambique is delighted by the progresses achieved in the respective political processes. We are confident that these achievements will contribute for a durable peace and the stability in these countries.

**Mr. President,**

We follow with concern the lack of progress in the search for viable solutions for the conflicts in the Middle-East. These conflicts are a challenge not only for the countries involved and the region but also for the International Community at large, due to its implications to international peace and security. Thus, we appeal to all relevant actors to engage in a constructive dialogue and, to work towards finding peaceful solutions that guarantee peace, security and stability.

We reiterate our conviction on the importance of continuous engagement of the United Nations in an effort towards the swift implementation of pertinent resolutions of the organization. We reiterate, still, internal dialogue, regional cooperation and the realistic interventions of the United Nations must be prioritized.

We reaffirm our unequivocal support to the cause of the Palestinian people, to whom it has been denied the inalienable right to self-determination as well as to the principle of the creation of two States, of Palestine and of Israel, co-existing peacefully.

Similarly, we reaffirm our support to the involvement of the international community in search for a sustainable solution to the cause of self-determination of the Western Sahara. We cannot understand or accept the delays in conducting the referendum agreed upon by all parties under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mozambique continues to follow with concern the maintenance of the unjust economic embargo against Cuba that impedes the socio-economic development of this sisterly country. Therefore, Mozambique reiterates the call of the majority of the UN member states for the immediate lifting of the embargo.

**Mr. President,**

The nature of the challenges that we face in the areas of international peace and security led us to affirm before this assembly, the increasing relevance of multilateral mechanisms for the resolution of disputes or situations of conflict through peaceful means.

We note with satisfaction, that throughout more than a half a century of its existence, the United Nations reached irrefutable achievements in maintaining peace, prevention and in the resolution of conflicts.

In order to effectively respond to the growing challenges to the resolution of conflicts, we are compelled to pursue, with more energy, the agenda for the reform of the United Nations system, the Security Council in particular and, the revitalization of the functioning of the General Assembly.

In this exercise, we believe that the following approach is critical by these two organs:

1. A global strategic plan of action and a detailed program that will address conflict situations;
2. Reinforce the capacity of resource mobilization for peacekeeping missions;
3. Negotiate and implement sustainable political solutions;
4. Engage with a long-term perspective;
5. The Security Council must have a more proactive role in the solution of conflicts through the full implementation of the resolutions that it adopts.

Thus, we reiterate the validity of the principles embedded in the United Nations Charter and of other international instruments that shall continue to be the main source of inspiration in the search for political and lasting solutions for the current conflicts.

**Mr. President,**

The resolution of conflicts constitutes a key condition for the pursuit of the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, particularly for African countries and Least Developed Countries.

In this context and, within the scope of the current discussions regarding the establishment of a development agenda post-2015, it is important that Member States act in a concerted manner in searching for converging points that will allow for the adoption of consensual and sustainable solutions for the well-being of our people.

Thus, we would like to express our optimism for the consensus reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20). We are aware that the success of these consensus depends on an integrated approach between the economic, social and environmental components as well as in the definition of a global framework for resource mobilization, within the terms of a constant common vision for the Resolution “The Future we want”.

**Mr. President,**

To end, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Mozambique to continue to collaborate with the United Nations in finding solutions for conflicts through peaceful means, as well as our commitment to peace, stability and sustainable development.

Thank you!