



A better life for all:

The challenges faced by the United Nations and the role of
multilateralism

Statement by His Excellency Armando Emílio Guebuza,
President of the Republic of Mozambique, at General Debate
of the 68th Session the United Nations General Assembly
under the theme “Development agenda post-2015: building
the stage”

New York, September 24th, 2013

Mr. President of the United Nations General Assembly
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations
Your Magesties
Your Royal Highnesses
Fellow Heads of State and Government

Distiguished Heads of Delegation
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is always a great honour for us to address this Magnificent House, symbol of equality among States and an inevitable forum of multilateralism which seeks sustainable solutions for the growing global challenges.

We join the speakers before us in congratulating you Mr. President for your election to preside over this session of the General Assembly.

We believe that your vast experience and knowledge will contribute towards the success of our work. We would like to assure you our support so as to ensure that your mandate is crowned with success.

We also congratulate your predecessor, Mr. Vuk Jeremic, for the job well done during the sixthy Seventh session, which resulted in the reaffirmation of the role of the United Nations as an indespensable multilateral forum.

We are shocked, Mr. President, by the sad news coming from Kenya regarding the killing of innocent citizens. We would like to express our solidarity to the People and the Government of Kenya and to all those who lost their loved ones in this tragedy.

Mr. President,

We salute you for the wise and oportune choice of the theme of this session: “Development Agenda post-2015: building the stage” as the debate will contribute towards the cristalization of the role of the Development Agenda post-2015, an agenda based on the goal to create an even better world for all of us. Thus, like the MDGs, this agenda should be based on principles such as:

- ❖ Inclusion, in its approach;
- ❖ National ownership, within the context of its sustainability; and
- ❖ shared responsability among the development partners in its implementation.

The theme for this session is based is a logical sequence of the decisions emanated from the Rio+20 Summit, which, therefore galvanized the ongoing preparatory process of the development agenda that will follow the MDGs, an agenda based in a multi-dimensional approach to development.

In carrying out this agenda, it is important that we extirpate from our vocabulary and from our attitude the dicothomy that attempts to group the members of the United Nations family,

to which we all belong, in two categories; the generous and the deprived people because in this partnership each of us complement the other with one's natural and human blessings. Those who do not contribute with financial resources, do contribute in kind.

In this context, the inability of a State to meet its development targets conceived and agreed upon in this Magnificent House represents a collective failure of the entire International Community because such targets are a shared responsibility of all States. Otherwise, why would we set international targets, which are later incorporated in national agendas, if these are not to be met?

Based on this framework, we reiterate our appeal for the commitments to be honoured within the context of the MDGs because a promise must be followed through, thus, avoiding, defrauding the expectations we create!

In a especial way, we would like to salute the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his initiative in creating the High Level Panel on the Development Agenda post-2015. The valuable conclusions and recommendations of the report produced by this Panel constitute an important reference in the formulation of the development agenda.

Mozambique had the privilege of being part of group of countries chosen to carry out a national consultation on the Development Agenda post-2015. The trust in the Mozambican civil society in driving this process is to be commended because it strengthened the principle of national ownership of the process.

It also created the conditions for the Mozambican social actors to demonstrate their growing vitality which is, in itself, a true reflection of the consolidation of the processes of democratic and inclusive governance in our country.

Actually, we have been furthering our democracy, reinforcing the democratic institutions and, consolidating democratic practices:

- ❖ through transparency, dialogue and participation;
- ❖ instilling respect for the Constitution; and
- ❖ Broadening the space so that more Mozambicans get involved in the fight against poverty.

An open and inclusive presidency, a governance mechanism replicated to other levels, lead us, on one hand, to interact in a direct and intense way with our People in the places where they live and fight against poverty and, on the other hand, places our governing method under scrutiny of the people.

It is in the context of our commitment to democratic principles and values and, in abiding by the legal tenets of our Constitution and laws, that on November 20th we will hold, for the fourth time, municipal elections and, in 2014, our fifth general and multi-party elections. The materialization of this electoral cycle is the beacon in exercising freedom of choice and in ensuring citizens' political participation in the democratic process.

In the context of our commitment to the disarmament agenda, an issue of paramount importance in promoting Peace and fight against poverty in the Mozambique, as well as a way

of associating ourselves with the cause of international peace and security, that we will host, from June 29th to July 4th, 2014, the Third International Conference to Review the Convention on the Elimination of Anti-Personal Mines .

Thus, we would like to invite all member States, observers and international organizations as well as civil society to participate in this Conference.

Distinguished Heads of State and of Government,

Last August, Mozambique concluded, with success, its mandate as the Chair of SADC. Given its relevance to our theme, we would like to share with this illustrious audience that, for a year, and in close collaboration with other Member States, the Africa Union, the United Nations and other international partners, we engaged ourselves in galvanizing the process of regional integration and, in seeking peace and stability for the region.

We reiterate our congratulations to Zimbabwe for holding successful elections in, which results were validated by the country's institutions and endorsed by both SADC and the African Union. Thus, the conditions are now created for the lifting of sanctions imposed to this country to allow for development and full participation of Zimbabwe in the global agenda.

Stability in the DRC continues to be a challenge for our region. We would like, once again, congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts in articulating

with SADC and the African Union and the International Conference for the Grand Lakes Region, which resulted in the signing of the “Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Region”, as well as in the appointment of President Mary Robinson, as the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, whom we also congratulate.

We reiterate our appeal to all signatories to honour the tenets of this agreement. We appeal to the Congolese actors to conclude the Kampala negotiations, so as to ensure the return of a lasting stability in the DRC.

The establishment of dates for the Presidential and Legislative elections, this year in Madagáscar, creates the opportunity for the conclusion of the political transition process in this country. We must continue to provide our support to ensure that this process is successful.

Within the framework of our Chairmanship of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), we remain steadfast and committed to the stability of Guinea-Bissau.

We salute the efforts shown by the Guinea-Bissau political actors in bringing back stability to their country. We also commend other partners of Guinea-Bissau, namely ECOWAS, African Union, European Union and the UN who have been contributing for a new dynamic which seeks to bring lasting solutions to the political crisis. We also salute the appointment of President Ramos Horta as a Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau.

We would like to reiterate our appeal to the International Community to mobilize needed resources to carry out elections and, above all the strengthening of Guinea-Bissau State institutions.

Mr. President,

The agenda for this session focuses in development in which implementation, with great success, can only occur in a climate of international of peace and security.

In seeking solutions for the conflicts in different parts of the world, the multilateral approach based on the principles of the UN Charter must prevail. The safeguard of world peace will always be our collective responsibility and never of one country or of a group of States. In this context, the reform of the United Nations, particularly of its Security Council, must continue to deserve our special attention, to ensure that this body is representative, democratic and credible, so that it can respond effectively respond to the different challenges of the contemporary world.

It will always be a paradox that whenever there are social, environmental and economic issues all the countries understand that multilateral cooperation is a mechanism in which cannot be avoided.

It is in the context of this overall framework that, the Republic of Mozambique continues to defend its support to:

- ❖ self-determination of the Palestinian people;

- ❖ the existence of a Palestinian State, based on the relevant UN resolutions; and
- ❖ the two States solution, in other words, Palestine and Israel living side-by-side and in an environment of peace and security; also
- ❖ the self-determination of the Saharawi People.

On the other hand, The Republic of Mozambique reiterates the need to end the economic, trade and financial embargo against Cuba.

Mr. President,

Once again, we reiterate our commitment to the noble ideals of the UN and we reaffirm that we will continue to do our part in building up an increasingly better, more stable and prosperous world.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!

