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REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Office of the President

“The UN at 70: a commitment to action”:

Statement by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique on the General Debate at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 28th September 2015

**Mr. Chairperson of the Seventieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
The Secretary General of the United Nations,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with a great honour that, once again, on behalf of the Mozambican people and indeed on my own behalf I address this seventieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

As we celebrate 70 years of our Organisation we are cognizant that we are not here just to commemorate a mere event.

We are also celebrating the realization of the desire to build a Universal Organisation which carries out activities in a global perspective, with a structured and institutionalised scope, with the capacity to evolve and adapt;

We are celebrating one of the wisest decisions of the humanity to establish an international body responsible for Peace, Security and the development of Member Countries.

An organisation which prevents that the humanity goes back to experience the spectrum of a world war or violent conflict situation at a global level;

We are celebrating mutual commitment to strengthen International Law as an instrument for regulating and standardising relations between and among States.

Relations based on the principles of sovereign equality between States, peaceful settlement of differences and non-interference in domestic affairs.

This positive and inspiring development, however contrasts with the prevailing conflict situations which are still affecting the humanity.

We will not be fair to ourselves and to our peoples and future generations, if we ignore the challenges and failures to be overcome.

The United Nations failed to guarantee international peace and security in its fullness. Old and new challenges emerge, inter and intra-state conflicts proliferate, particularly in Africa and Middle East.

The phenomenon of terrorism is growing as the most serious threats of our time.

Decolonisation is yet to be completed, underdevelopment, exacerbated by the problematic of refugees and illegal migration, are far from becoming history.

However these failures cannot be regarded as fatalism. They should be taken up as challenges that require, more than mere words; most importantly they require concerted actions by the international community.

Without the United Nations the political, economic and social context in which we find ourselves would be worst.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations under the theme “**A Commitment to Action**” is a reaffirmation of our commitment to keep alive the objective to protect future generations from the violence of war and to ensure inclusive socio-economic development in full freedom.

Therefore, there is only one response to these phenomena and trends: translating the theme, “**A Commitment to Action**” into concrete, structured and tangible actions.

For Mozambique, in the area of international peace and security, the commitment to action includes, among others, the adoption and implementation of effective structures for prevention and management of conflicts, as well as the need to conclude a Convention against terrorism. Emphasis should be in preventive diplomacy.

The commitment to action we celebrate here should establish platforms for dialogue among cultures and civilizations as an essential tool to promoting tolerance, the culture of peace and a dignified and peaceful world.

As for development, we rejoice for the adoption of the Development Agenda Post-2015, a new global development framework for the next 15 years.

This is an agenda that succeeds and builds on the Millennium Development Goals which guided us over the last 15 years.

Therefore any action we take in the future should not ignore the successes achieved and lessons learned.

Similarly to other countries, I believe, Mozambique has achieved remarkable progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Worth highlighting is the expansion of access to education, gender balance in the access to primary education and compliance with the target on infant mortality reduction.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Development Agenda Post-2015 embodies our collective ambition to transform the world by 2030. The Agenda brings back human dignity by fighting poverty, protecting people and the planet. It represents, in particular, the culmination of a number of negotiation processes at global level on climate change, for its centrality.

The Development Agenda Post-2015 is perfectly in line with our Governance Five Year programme. It is not an end in itself, but it has an added value of focusing on people. It is founded on the so called sustainable development pillars, namely the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The Agenda is not an end in itself, but a means that reflect a collective desire to combat poverty and bring back human dignity.

It is our desire that by 2030 we meet, in a historical event as this one to celebrate the implementation of the goals and common vision as reflected in the document, “*Transforming our world: Sustainable Development Agenda 2030*”.

For that to be possible, Mozambique defends, among other things that it is of paramount importance that the commitment to action reflects:

- The need to timely mobilise the requisite resources for its implementation;
- The continuous relevance and abidance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility;
- The importance for partners to respect commitments assumed under the agreed international development goals;
- The importance of appropriate technology transfer to developing countries, as a catalytic factor for socio-economic transformation;
- Aid without political conditionality, and strengthening of north-south, south-south, bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms, in the light of internationally agreed principles;

Respect for national reality and inclusion of local content.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The commitment of Mozambique to the Development Agenda Post-2015 is unequivocal and it has been expressed from the onset.

As you might be aware, Mozambique has been one of the 50 countries selected by the United Nations to host national consultations.

This sample has contributed for the development of this new guiding instrument of the global development agenda.

This was a process that was extended to the most diverse socio-professional segments, whose results, to our satisfaction, were taken into consideration in the Report of the Secretary General.

For the Development Agenda Post-2015 to be truly transformative and successful, it is imperative that it is domesticated and absorbed by national governance instruments.

Indicators and targets should be defined in a clear way in order to facilitate the process of monitoring and evaluation of progress.

Mozambique has already been able to take this important step with the inclusion of the three dimension approach of the Development Agenda Post-2015 into the Government Five Year Programme, namely:

- Consolidating national unity, peace and sovereignty;
- Developing human and social capital;
- Promoting employment, productivity and competitiveness;
- Developing economic and social infrastructures; and
- Ensuring sustainable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment.

We reiterate here our commitment to continue building the capacity for domestic resources mobilisation which grew from 13% of the GDP, in 2006 to 25% in 2014.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lack of effectiveness of the United Nations in fulfilling to a full extent its own purpose is one of the issues that concern us.

It is not understandable that the United Nations are an obstacle for the implementation of its own mandate.

We should be here today, equally celebrating the completion of

the Security Council reform opening a new window of opportunity to promote a world where people enjoy the most elementary rights, including peace and development.

The Security Council reform is one of the concealed pillars for the success of implementation of the Development Agenda Post-2015 which cannot be underestimated.

We should therefore, translate our renewed and consensual will to reform the Security Council into tangible results.

We should also take advantage of the environment created for this session to bring more dynamism to the reform process.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we said in the Summit that adopted the Development Agenda Post-2015, the holistic approach and strategic objectives set for each of the priorities of our new governing cycle reflect the economic, social and environmental dimensions which configure the Sustainable Development Goals.

Meanwhile, they are the main challenges for the country to mobilise the necessary resources for the implementation of this

agenda and the incorporation of indicators and global targets under the process of monitoring and evaluation of progress.

The celebration of 70 years of the United Nations and the adoption of the Development Agenda Post-2015 are being shadowed by an unprecedented crisis at international level.

I am referring to the humanitarian crisis arising from the flow of refugees and migrants with no parallel in the recent history of the humanity.

This shocking situation is a manifestation of a succession of unresolved crisis or poorly settled situations in relation to which the international community had already forecast.

Today we are committed to adopting measures that will minimise the plight of these people.

However, little will be achieved if we continue to focus on short term cosmetic measures which respond to the manifestation of the problem, like the need to curtail the flow of refugees and migrants from the source.

We need, yes, to confront and address the underlying problems of this phenomenon with dramatic human proportions.

We will not be in a position to identify effective actions if we fail to recognise that we have failed as international community.

We are talking about proliferation of conflicts, political, social and economic exclusion. We are talking about poverty, injustice and hunger.

We are talking on the way dialogue is replaced by threat and aggression. We are, actually, talking on how fear has taken the place of the willingness to acquaint mutually.

Some of these measures to address the situation are long known.

In this regard, we would like to call upon all leaders to redouble efforts in search for sustainable solutions to this humanitarian scourge.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Heads of State and Government,**

We have followed with keen interest and satisfaction the latest positive developments aimed at normalising bilateral relations

between the USA and Cuba.

We continue to encourage actions to bring to an end the economic, trade and financial embargo on this country, without prejudice of legitimate interests of whoever concerned.

While we do not apply our wisdom and complete these political processes, even if we meet all targets of the Development Agenda Post-15 our mission as a community will never be complete.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Mozambique was one of the most infested Countries by land mines in the world. Acknowledging the importance of mine clearance for promoting an atmosphere of peace, security and development, Mozambique has become party to the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Land Mines and on its destruction, also known as the Ottawa Convention.

Since the onset, we have made all efforts to comply with obligations arising from this Convention.

In this regard I am pleased to announce that Mozambique has

successfully completed the Demining Programme.

We have cleared all known risk areas, which totalled 500 million square metres of land.

It would have been worthless to liberate our country, if our feet were forbidden from travelling throughout our land or from farming the land or developing tourism or mining our subsoil resources. This is a victory we celebrate with intensive emotion.

We would like to express our profound gratitude to our international cooperating partners and humanitarian demining organisations, the United Nations Agencies and the civil society for their invaluable support.

The year of 2015 is also special for Mozambique. On 25 June this year we celebrated 40 years of independence. We are a State which is no longer an adolescent. On 16 September this year we celebrated 40 years of cooperation with the United Nations, therefore we are jubilant in this house and the United Nations should feel proud for the stability and growth of our country. UN should perpetuate its support. Therefore I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating that the search for sustainable solutions to global problems, alongside the United Nations and respective Member States will continue to be the

unconditional commitment of my Government.

Long Live Sustainable Development of the Humanity!

Thank you

Neste contexto, tenho o prazer de anunciar que Moçambique concluiu com êxito o Programa de Desminagem, com a libertação de todas áreas de risco conhecidas, que totalizam 500 milhões de metros quadrados de terras outrora bloqueadas à livre circulação de pessoas e bens. De pouco valia termos libertados a nossa pátria, se os nossos pés estavam interditos de nela viajar em toda a sua extensão. Está é uma vitória que celebramos com intensa emoção.

Gostaríamos de aproveitar esta oportunidade para manifestar a nossa profunda gratidão aos nossos parceiros de cooperação, organizações humanitárias de desminagem, agências das Nações Unidas e a sociedade civil, pelo inestimável apoio. Graças a este apoio, Moçambique tornou-se um país mais seguro e livre do impacto nefasto das minas anti-pessoal, factor crucial de estabilidade nacional e desenvolvimento sócio - económico.

Para a consolidação deste feito, o Governo está empenhado em assegurar condições duradoiras de segurança, através do

estabelecimento de mecanismos sustentáveis para a gestão residual de engenhos explosivos remanescentes, resultantes do conflito armado.

Excelências,

Minhas Senhoras e meus Senhores,

2015 é também um ano especial para Moçambique. Neste ano, celebramos 40 anos de independência e 40 anos de cooperação com as Nações Unidas. Por isso, gostaria de terminar a minha intervenção, renovando o compromisso incondicional de Moçambique continuar engajado na procura de soluções sustentáveis para os problemas globais, lado a lado com as Nações Unidas e respectivos Estados Membros.

Muito obrigado pela atenção dispensada!