



ADDRESS

By

H.E. MRS. ALCINDA ANTÓNIO DE ABREU
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
of the Republic of Mozambique

at the

General Debate at the Plenary
Sixtieth Session of the
General Assembly of the United Nations

New York, 22 September, 2005

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of this 60th Session. We are delighted to see a distinguished son of Sweden and a friend of Mozambique in the stewardship of this august body and wish to express our confidence that under your able leadership, our deliberations will produce successful results.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to your predecessor, His Excellency Jean Ping, for the remarkable manner with which he spearheaded the deliberations of the 59th General Assembly.

May I also commend the Secretary General for his continued vision and leadership in our collective efforts to pursue the fundamental ideals of the United Nations, in particular the implementation of the international agenda for peace and development, highlighted by his report and we encourage him to continue his outstanding work.

Mr. President,

We gather here today inspired by the spirit of togetherness and collective vision on the path we should strive to maintain so as to achieve our common aspirations, as underscored throughout the deliberations of the High-Level Plenary Meeting.

We must seize this momentum to reinforce multilateralism as a guiding principle under which the international community should rely to adequately face today's challenges. We believe that the emphasis of the 2005 World Summit Outcome

on the vital importance of an effective multilateral system and our determination to fulfill the commitments we set for ourselves will generate and galvanize good thrust for action towards tangible results.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, we should reflect on what we want the United Nations to be and what role each country and region should play in these collective endeavors.

In recognizing the inclusiveness, equal rights of man and women and of all nations, the Charter of the United Nations builds on our diverse cultural and traditional values to unite us around our common humanity.

Our failure to overcome the poverty trap that developing countries, coupled with permanent threats posed by terrorism are an indication of the need for an international system that is more inclusive, democratic under the umbrella of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant provisions of International Law. It is our firm belief that the United Nations continues to be an indispensable instrument to achieve these objectives. Thus, the strength of our Organization must be high on our agenda. We ought to elevate its performance by reforming its organs and structures.

Therefore, it is our sincere hope that the United Nations reform will contribute in fostering a strong relationship and coordination links between all its principal organs, in particular the General Assembly, the Security Council, as well as the Economic and Social Council.

The Security Council reform should be geared to building transparency, democracy, openness and consistency with all regions represented in the Organization. In this regard, the growing political commitment and involvement of Africa in the international agenda for peace and stability calls for a more enhanced representation on the Security Council.

We hope that the recently-established Peace-Building Commission will assist in keeping a sustained international attention and support to countries in transition from post-conflict situations to recovery and to long-term development. Indeed, the experience of Mozambique's transition from post-conflict to reconstruction for development, testifies the valuable contribution and impact of the concerted support provided by the United Nations and the international community to peace and development efforts.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) set a new momentum in our quest to fight poverty, accelerate human development and facilitate the gradual and effective integration of the developing world into the global economy. Despite the less ambitious outcome of the recently concluded Summit, time has come to build a genuine international partnership and to reaffirm our political will to implement fully the internationally agreed commitments.

We need to work diligently to implement the commitments made in Monterrey. In this regard the establishment of a detailed calendar for the implementation of the goals set on the financing for development is vital to generate access to additional financial support for the developing countries. To this end, we welcome the decision by the European Union to set up collective and specific targets with a view to reaching the internationally target of 0.7% of GDP to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015.

The sustainable development of low-income countries, particularly in Africa, relies on a more open, equitable and rule-based multilateral trading system, as trade constitutes an engine for growth and development. In this regard, we view partnership agreements such as the Cotonou Agreement and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) as important steps towards fulfilling some of the development objectives. We strongly believe that the completion of the Doha

Round by 2006, will help to establish an international trading system in consistence with the development goals and policies.

Mr. President,

Whilst the developing countries are striving to finance the MDGs, debt servicing has been diverting significant amounts of their limited resources at a cost of social and economic development. In this context, we reiterate the calls for a more radical action from the international community, in line with recommendations that debt relief should cover multilateral and bilateral debt, and reduce debt stock and debt service by up to 100%. To this aim, we support furtherance of the HIPC initiative and other relief measures, particularly those addressing the special needs of the African countries.

In this regard, we commend the debt cancellation decision made by the G-8 Finance Ministers, in favor of 18 developing countries, including Mozambique. We encourage these and other development partners to continue with such important initiatives and to address the unsustainable debt burden of many developing countries, so that new resources can be invested in pursuit of poverty reduction.

Mr. President,

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique is now fully engaged in the implementation of its Programme for 2005-2009 that incorporates our vision of development based on continuity and renewal. This approach is founded on past experiences and programmes pursued in the quest for development and well being of all Mozambicans. The eradication of poverty requires new dynamism and vigor as clearly point out in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Brussels Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Millennium Development Goals.

In this context, our Five-year Programme focuses on integrated rural development and expansion of basic economic and social infrastructures, aiming at reducing absolute poverty through promotion of rapid, comprehensive and sustained economic growth and job creation.

In addressing the social and economic development, the Programme seeks mainly to reduce the regional imbalances and expand the supply of basic services such as health, education and access to electricity and safe drinking water. The programme also gives due attention to the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases as well as to the special needs of the youth in terms of training, employment and housing.

Through the implementation of sound political and macro-economic policies and strategies for development, we have registered economic growth rates averaging 7.5% from 2000 to 2005. Poverty levels have declined significantly, from 69.5% in 1997 to 54.1% in 2003. This has been possible due to focus on PARPA, our nationally owned poverty eradication strategy, that not only has mainstreamed the MDG's and adapted them to our own realities, but also embodies a clear pro-poor and people-centered development strategy.

The consolidation of peace, democracy and national unity continue to be high in our national agenda, as we recognize that peace and stability are *sine qua non* conditions to secure sustainable development in our countries.

Mr. President,

We continue to build self-confidence around Africa. The continent counts on NEPAD to raise the spirit of ownership of the African leaders and thus bring about significant changes in our development. The adherence so far by 28 countries to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), has added to the credibility of the participating states, as it ensures their policies and practices comply with the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards.

engage in research of nuclear technology in conformity with the provisions of Treaty.

We would like to conclude, Mr. President, by reaffirming the commitment of Mozambique to the principles and objectives enshrined in the United Nations Charter and our belief that the UN reform process will strengthen the Organization with a view to providing more and better assistance to all member states, in particular with respect to addressing the special needs of Africa.

I thank you.