



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT GIVING A SPEECH AT THE
SPECIAL SESSION ON CIPD UNDER THE 69th
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS**

New York, on the 22nd September 2014

Chairman Person,

Honourable Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique, to congratulate Uganda for its appointment to chair this special session.

Mozambique has been actively monitoring and supporting the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Action Plan since its adoption in 1994, in Cairo, Egypt.

In terms of the SADC sub-region, Mozambique has collaborated with fellow countries in implementing the Plan of Action of Cairo, the most recent example was the holding in Maputo, the meeting of Ministers overseeing the area of Population Development.

This meeting allowed to return once again to the progress made by the countries of the sub region and its documentation in a regional report, as well as having produced the Maputo Declaration, which allowed to include major regional concerns in discussions at the continental level which in turn served as the basis for global discussions held last April in New York.

We would also like to share some progresses made by Mozambique, with those who are present in this session, since the adoption of the Action Plan of Cairo. One of the biggest gains was the elaboration of Population Policy in 1999 and the institutionalization of population issues.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, particularly of adolescents and youth deserve particular attention. In partnership with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other partners, friendly centers to assist adolescents and youth on sexual and reproductive health related issues were installed and work attached to schools and health facilities.

Mozambique can affirm with proud that inequalities between women and men are being healed, as we can see that more than 30% of the members of the Cabinet are women and about 40% of parliamentarians are female.

Moreover, we note with satisfaction the reduction of inequalities between girls and boys in primary education, therefore, at this level we can proudly say that there is gender parity.

We also note with satisfaction the reduction of infant mortality rate of 143/1000 live births in 1997 to 64/1000 live births in 2013.

However, despite the remarkable progress, we still face challenges among which we highlight youth unemployment and provision of education and health services.

The still remaining challenges convince us even more to reiterate that the Cairo Agenda as well as its respective Plan of Action still valid instruments to pursue the goal of improving the living conditions of our population.

To conclude, we would like to stress that the issue of respect for human rights and the promotion of equality between men and women as well as the continuous improvement of living conditions of our population must continue to deserve the attention of our Government

towards the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development.

Thank You