



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

INTERVENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE

**ON THE AGENDA ITEM 112: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

**DURING THE 77th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 2022

Mr President

Allow me to join the delegations that have preceded me in congratulating you on your election as President of the Sixth Committee of this 77th Session of the General Assembly. Your election is without doubt a testimony to the proven experience and valuable contribution you have made to the work of this body over the years. We are therefore fully confident that, under your competent chairmanship, this session will produce positive results and, to this end, you can count on the full support of the Mozambican delegation.

Our congratulations are also extended to the other members of the Bureau.

As a Mozambican and an African, we wish to take the opportunity of your chairmanship to underscore the importance of joint international action in combating the recent spread of international terrorism in Africa and other regions of the world.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by (.....) on behalf of the African Group, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, respectively.

Mr President

Since 2017, Mozambique has been the direct target of international terrorism, with the involvement of foreign combatants, who, together with young Mozambicans and children enticed and deceived by them, are used to terrorise, kidnap and murder defenceless populations, especially children,

women and the elderly, forcing those who survive to seek shelter outside their areas of origin or to become refugees in neighbouring countries and elsewhere.

Furthermore, the barbaric actions of the terrorists have resulted in the destruction of infrastructure and the socio-economic fabric, with a direct impact on the development process, at a time when Mozambique was preparing to position itself as an important player in international energy geopolitics.

An estimated 2,000 have died and more than 807,000 are displaced as a result of the terrorists' actions since 2017 in Cabo Delgado and the neighbouring provinces of Niassa and Nampula in Mozambique's northern region.

The reality that prevails in my Country places Mozambique in the front line of the direct fight against international terrorism, and therefore its mere condemnation is not enough, but requires energetic action to combat it with a view to its eradication, which cannot be achieved only through our internal readiness, but also through the international cooperation of all the players in the international system, including, obviously, the United Nations.

In this context, Mozambique places itself unreservedly at the forefront of commitment and action to combat international terrorism, supports continued concerted efforts in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all international instruments and mechanisms.

We also take note of the Secretary-General's Report containing information on measures taken by governments and international organisations to eliminate international terrorism.

Mozambique is party to the main international legal instruments for the prevention and suppression of terrorism, and therefore supports the strengthening of the international legal framework, including the important conclusion of a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, reiterating its support and collaboration with the Working Group.

Mozambique has shared with international partners its response and set of actions to prevent and combat international terrorism, aligned with regional, continental and international references, that include the SADC Regional Strategy on Combating Terrorism and its Plan of Action, plus the establishment of the Regional Centre this year; the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its Protocol; and, the aforementioned United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the work of the United Nations Office on Combating Terrorism.

With respect to the adoption of internal measures on mitigation, prevention and combating terrorism and violent extremism, Mozambique continues to promote the active engagement of communities and religious faith. However, takes note of the fact that terrorists continue to justify their criminal actions on religious grounds, which is always denied by the Mozambican religious authorities.

With the strong support of partners, we are implementing intensive programs aimed at promoting development, training and generation of job opportunities. These programs

led to the approval, on the 21st June, 2022 of the Resilience and Integrated Development Program for the Northern Mozambique (PREDIN). The support of the United Nations in the establishment and coordination of this sort of initiatives is paramount.

In the same context, Mozambique is strengthening its institutional capacity building and the legal framework, rapid and progressively narrowing the gaps that could be used by terrorist groups and promoting international legal and judiciary cooperation.

Among other relevant legislation, Mozambique reviewed its laws on the prevention, repression and combating terrorism and proliferation of arms of mass destruction, as well as money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of the proliferation of arms of mass destruction, in an effort to tackle and weaken transnational organized crime that supports terrorism.

In combating terrorism, respect for human rights and the Rule of Law should prevail, including the guaranties of individual rights, treatment of victims and the terrorist themselves. The rehabilitation of terrorists has been part of actions that Mozambique is carrying out with great level of success so far, in combating terrorism.

The strengthening of our national defense capability is indispensable, in the light of the growing threat to the country's sovereignty and stability. That is happening under the leadership and coordination of Mozambicans and counts

with the unconditional, direct and indirect support of sister countries and partner international organizations.

As an example of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, we should like to hail the deployment of the SADC Military Mission to Mozambique (SAMIM) and that of Rwanda, which side by side with the Mozambican Army, have successfully been fighting terrorism, in Mozambique, on a daily basis.

This regional initiative goes beyond military co-operation and has contributed to the strengthening of regional dialogue, in various fields, producing tangible results in the fight against terrorism. It has also contributed to the strengthening of political, social and economic cooperation among the countries in the region.

Mr President

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our conviction that combating terrorism constitutes primary responsibility of States. However, we recognize the paramount importance of multilateral approach on the subject matter, in which Mozambique can and should serve an example of co-operation for the fight against international terrorism, through continuous strengthening of international cooperation.

The Sixth Committee and, indeed, the United Nations as a whole, as stated earlier, have a crucial role to play, in promoting a common, global and concerted and more

efficient response to the prevention and fight against international terrorism.

It is also within this mindset that Mozambique is going to participate in United Nations Security Council for the biennium 2023-2024.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to recognize and express our gratitude to the United Nations, regional organizations, individual and friendly countries and partners for the role and the support they have been providing to Mozambique in combating international terrorism.

I thank you!.