

**Check against delivery**



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**

**Madam President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and on my own, I would like to congratulate you, Madame President, on your election to preside over the 61st. Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.**

**Allow me to express our appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Development Programme, and other relevant United Nations agencies, in advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.**

**I also commend the Bureau of the Least Developed Countries for its leadership during this review process, as well as in representing the Least Developed Countries'**

**interests and concerns in the United Nations system and in all international and multilateral fora.**

**My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered this morning by the delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.**

**Madam President,**

**Let me briefly touch upon some of the crucial issues addressed in Mozambique, as well as experiences and progress achieved so far:**

**On good governance we have succeeded in promoting gender balance in our institutions at all levels. As a result of the last general elections in 2004, the numbers of women in the parliament raised up to 35.5% over the total number (250), while in the Government 24% of Ministers are**

women and the figure rises up to 26.6% among Deputy Ministers.

In 2004 we adopted the Law that fights corruption.

The Government priority in the area of education has been the expansion of the access and improvement of the quality of education and the strengthening of the institutional capacity in the different education administration.

In the scope of the strengthening the administration capacity and management of the system, we have been training school directors and managers of the system at provincial and district level.

On the area of health, our priority has been to increase access and improve the quality of the provision of primary health care. Also, efforts are being done to reverse the

negative impact of HIV-AIDS, TB and malaria.

The Government has long defined agriculture as the basis of the country's economic .About 80% of the labour force is in agriculture and rural activities. Rehabilitation of the existing agriculture-related infrastructure, including roads, railway lines, ports, irrigation systems, water and power supply has been a priority of the government.

**Trade** is a fundamental element for sustainable development and poverty reduction contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

For the past years, Mozambique has been undertaking trade reforms which include a progressive reduction of taxes on international trade, reduction of barriers to imports and exports of goods and services. The Mozambique Customs Office is in the process of harmonizing documentation with the region and improving its infrastructures with a view to

facilitating trade and reducing delays in the clearing process.

We have most recently introduced a concept of "One Stop Shop", established in order to facilitate the business.

Mozambique's external trade policies are designed to create an environment conducive to promoting its products in international markets, especially those of the developed countries of Europe, America, and Asia without prejudice to the promotion of intra-African trade.

**Madame President,**

While important progress have been registered in our countries efforts to tackle the fight against poverty, it is very disappointing to notice that many LDCs are unlikely to realize the internationally agreed economic development goals, including the MDGs.

We would be very much encouraged if this review presents successful and fruitful deliberations to reverse that trend. To meet that objective the strengthening of our shared responsibility and partnerships involving all relevant stakeholders, Governments, civil society and private sector, is needed.

I thank you

New York, September 2006