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STATEMENT

BY

**THE HONOURABLE IOLANDA CINTURA
MINISTER OF WOMAN AND SOCIAL ACTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

AT THE

**56TH SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 2012

Madame Chair

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Mozambique delegation it is an honor for me to address the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme of *“The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges”*.

First and foremost, allow me Madame Chair to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to this Session.

I also wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm Mozambique`s commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and in the achieving of the Millennium Development Goals.

Distinguished Chairperson,

The theme under discussion is of critical importance to my country because the majority of the population lives in the rural areas and majority of people in rural Mozambique are women, who are the mainstay of the rural economy.

It is in recognition of this reality, that the Government of Mozambique embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at ensuring the empowerment of women, particularly the rural women through the adoption of policies,

strategies and plans in key areas such as health, education, agriculture, environment, energy and approved key legislation that contribute to the enhancement of the welfare of Mozambican women and men in general.

In these plans, particular attention is placed in the empowerment of rural women, through training programs for the implementation of literacy programmes and training in areas such as small business management, promotion of women's rights, promulgation of gender sensitive legislation, as well as the promotion of use of appropriated technologies for good agricultural practices in order to increase production and productivity.

Among the activities implemented for empowerment of rural women, stand out the empowerment of women in the use of improved agricultural techniques, technologies and practices, creation of women's associations, the community management of natural resources, the analysis of gender, participation in decision making in small business management, management of small processing industries, facilitation of access to credit and others.

The Government has also designed policies to reduce rural poverty and improve the situation of food security and nutrition. To this end, several actions were taken by the government through the promotion of small scale industries in post-harvest processing as well as carrying out campaigns and messages on Nutrition, Food Security and Human Rights to Food.

The facilitation of the creation and registration of associations has created a greater opportunity for organizations of rural women to join forces and participate more fully in the decision making processes.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As part of the actions taken by the government for empowerment of rural women, is in the process of implementation the Employment Strategy and Training (2006), which aims to promote the right to decent work and involves the creation of new jobs and the adoption of a social and economic systems that ensures employment and job security safety, while making its adaptable to fast changing circumstances in a highly competitive market.

One of the highlights of this policies is the success of the associations of producers of sugar cane to supply to the sugar companies across the country which have contributed greatly for the involvement of women's who only produced food crops for subsistence in to the production of this cash crop, thus placing them in the mainstream of the formal economy.

The promotion of equal rights in access to land and property is one of the main objectives of the country including its control, ensuring the safety of its use and possession by women and other vulnerable groups.

The Strategy of Gender, Environment and Climate Change, which aims to ensure equal access and control of natural resources, technology adaptation and mitigation of climate change, to ensure sustainable use of natural resources in fighting poverty.

As a result of governmental action for empowering rural women, Mozambican Forum of Rural Women (FOMMUR) was created with the main objective to advocate for issues that concern the rural women.

Madame Chair,

We wouldn't speak about empowering rural women without taking in to consideration their health in general and sexual and reproductive health in particular.

In this context, a series of initiatives have been implemented since the adoption of the road map to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the area of maternal and child health, promoting social participation and strengthening civil society in preventing maternal and infant mortality.

Chairperson

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the firm commitment of Mozambique in this cause aware that a number of challenges and obstacles to overcome remain, and continue to implement the international instruments of the rights of women in general and rural women in particular.

In closing, I do wish to express our confidence once again, in the CSW and in the UN Women and hope to continue working together to make impressive strides toward our common goal of gender equality and empowerment of women.

I thank you for your attention.