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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS**

**At  
THE 66<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THIRD COMMITTEE**

**ON  
AGENDA ITEM 28:**

**ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

**NEW YORK, 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011**



Mr. Chairman  
Ladies and gentlemen

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, allow me at the outset, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your election to chair the Third Committee of the 66th Session of the General Assembly. I would like to also extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statements delivered by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Kenya on behalf of African Group and Tanzania on behalf of SADC.

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to seize this opportunity to express the great satisfaction of the Republic of Mozambique by the fact that the 2011 Peace Nobel prize was awarded to 3 eminent women, including a well known personality of Africa, Her Excellency Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. This high distinction means that at last the recognition of the immense contribution of women to a peaceful world and human development is gaining the higher profile and the visibility it deserves.

Gender equality that entails the advancement of women through meaningful empowerment is an essential condition for development and promotion of human rights. Gender equality and women empowerment is not only one of the noblest development goals, but it also concurs to the attainment of the other seven internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary General for the comprehensive reports on the advancement of women, and our gratitude to the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women for their highly informative presentations.

The Republic of Mozambique reaffirms its commitment to continue implementing the Beijing Plan for Action and the Outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly, addressing the main problems affecting women such as poverty, violence and discrimination. My delegation believes that while we should welcome the progress so far in some regions towards the MDGs, there is still need for urgent action at all levels to pursue approaches that address these problems and their root causes more vigorously

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation endorses the consensual view that strategies for gender equality and advancement of women in many developing countries should, among other things, give priority to education of girls, economic empowerment and representation of women in decision-making process. Indeed the principle of equality of men and women before law in political, economic, social and cultural domains, is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique.

As a result of the proactive approach to women advancement, we have registered a steady increase in access of girls to education at all levels as well as a higher retention of girls in the system until the completion of the respective grade levels.

The Government of Mozambique pursues deliberate strategies and policies that encourage the participation of women in decision-making bodies in the public, private and social sectors at local and national levels. Thirty per cent of members of the Mozambican Parliament are women and out of 31 members of the Council of Ministers or Cabinet 8 are women. In local government and in any economic entity operating in Mozambique able women are assigned managerial responsibilities and work in harmony with their male counterparts.

Mr. Chairman

My delegation welcome the report of the Secretary General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and welcome the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider "Empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges" as its priority theme in 2012.

In this context, we appreciate the support provided by UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation which is providing skills training for women in agriculture extension work in Mozambique and other countries of the Southern Africa region.

We also appreciate the support provided by UNIDO and the Government of Norway that resulted in the introduction of an entrepreneurship programme into the curriculum of formal secondary and tertiary education system, encouraging girls to work in enterprises not traditionally reserved for women and in that way challenge gender stereotypes and promote greater equality.

Mr. Chairman,

As the new UN entity on gender equality was born last year, our expectation is that UN-Women will have a strong presence at the field level and complement the efforts of member states and those of the regional gender units. We also endorse the belief that we need strong gender architecture at national and regional levels as well as within the United Nations system in order to implement the gender equality agenda more effectively.

We look forward to the interactions and exchanges that will further strengthen our relationship in this critical agenda for our family of nations.

Thank you