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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. OLDEMIRO BALOI
Minister For Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
of the Republic of Mozambique

BEFORE

The General Debate

**Of The
64^a Session of the General Assembly**

New York, 28 September, 2009

**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me to have this opportunity to address the 64th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to share the views and give the contribution of the Republic of Mozambique on some of the challenges facing the world today.

I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki on his unanimous election to preside over this session of the General Assembly. Mr. President, I assure you of the full support and collaboration of Mozambique for the successful discharge of your noble mission.

We pay our tribute to your predecessor, His Excellency Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, a great sponsor of the people's liberation, for the resolved manner in which he presided over the 63rd session of the General Assembly and for his tireless efforts and devotion to speak in favour of the most poor and disadvantaged.

The engagement of Father Miguel D' Escoto to advocate in favor of those suffering in the Palestinian territories as well as the strong leadership he demonstrated by bringing together the 192 United Nations member states to address the financial and economic crisis have given us a vivid example of how commitment and generosity, combined with vision and resolve can make a difference in bringing together the international community in the search for solutions to the current global problems.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to convey to this august gathering the warmest greetings from His Excellency President Armando Emilio Guebuza, who could not be present today due to pressing national commitments. Indeed, on the 28th of October of this year, Mozambique will hold its fourth general elections, and for the first time in the country's history, there will be elections for Provincial Parliaments.

These elections bear witness of our strong political will and commitment to further strengthen democracy in the country, where the rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights for all Mozambicans unite us in our fight against absolute poverty and for peace, stability and sustainable development.

As a result of this enabling political environment, in the last five years, Mozambique has recorded a steady economic performance and signals of economic stability, with GDP growth rates averaging 7.8%. Poverty levels have decreased from 69.4% in 1997 to 54.1% in 2003.

As a result of our discernible progress in education, health, water, and sanitation, we expected to reduce poverty to 45% by the end of the current year. However, the current global financial and economic crisis is constraining that goal as it was recently forecasted that our economic growth may slow to 4.3% in 2009. In this context, the government's focus is to ensure that the effects of the crisis do not get deeper and create conditions that would prevent us to return to our economic and social gains described above.

The combined effects of food, oil and financial crises, cyclical natural disasters, as well as diseases like the pandemic HIV-AIDS and endemic ones such as malaria and tuberculosis have resulted in human losses, and affected the productive sectors.

Mozambique welcomes the launching, here at the United Nations, on the 23rd of September 2009, of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) and pledges to play an active role in support of this new mechanism aimed at coordinating our responses to the scourge of malaria.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Climate change is another pressing challenge. Therefore, next December we can not afford to fail to "seal the deal" at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen. It is our hope that the commitments made during the last Summit on Climate Change, held on the 22nd of September will inspire the deliberations in Copenhagen.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In Southern Africa, we continue our efforts towards regional economic integration, consolidation of democracy, good governance and political stability. It is within this framework that progress was made in the implementation of the Free Trade Area (FTA) in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and free and fair elections were held in a number of countries in the region.

In spite of this advancement, we continue to face challenges in many areas that still demand our attention, particularly those of peace, security and stability. In this regard, Mozambique, in its capacity as chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation, will strive to ensure the success of the common regional efforts to eradicate instability pockets so as to enable our countries to concentrate on the achievement of the social and economic development goals that our peoples are longing for.

We are encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe, which is enabling the country to move towards an atmosphere of political and social stability conducive to a permanent dialogue, reconstruction and economic recovery. The economic challenges facing Zimbabwe associated to the current

global economic crisis and the continued sanctions by some international development partners make the achievement of the desired rapid economic recovery hard to fulfill. Therefore, we reiterate the SADC call for the removal of all sanctions against Zimbabwe.

We are concerned about the attempts to undermine the agreement signed in Maputo by all Malagasy political movements on the 9th of August 2009 and condemn any unilateral decision which violates the spirit of the agreements. We reiterate our support to the current political dialogue in Madagascar and urge all political stakeholders to fully implement the Maputo agreements.

In addition to the sub-regional efforts to address the current situation of conflicts in Africa, a special session of the African Union was convened last August in Tripoli to consider a wide range of conflicts with a view to searching for solutions so as to bring about consolidated and sustainable peace, security, and stability in the continent. It is within this spirit that Mozambique commends and supports the ongoing initiatives both at regional and continental levels aimed at promoting durable and sustainable peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur and Somalia, among others.

With regard to the Middle East, Mozambique is encouraged by the prospects for an effective viable and durable two states solution for the Palestinian and Israelis, as well as for a broader Arab-Israeli normalization as a result of the commitments made by relevant stakeholders during this general debate.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Time has come for us to act together, at national, regional and international levels to ensure the speedy and full implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

We reiterate, therefore, our recognition of the vital role played by the United Nations in coordinating the international efforts in the searching for sustainable responses for the global problems facing the world today. In this regard, it is worth to recall the urgent need to accelerate the ongoing United Nations reforms, including the reform of the Security Council, the revitalization of the General Assembly, as well as the process of reforming the United Nations system to make it more effective, efficient and coherent, and thus more responsive to the development needs of developing countries. Indeed, as one of the eight pilot countries in testing the "Delivering as One" initiative, Mozambique is fully engaged in the reform of the United Nations system at country level.

Mozambique strongly believes in multilateralism, and that the United Nations is at the centre of it. We also believe that the United Nations is a privileged forum that congregates the universal aspirations for a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous world, where the values of tolerance, respect of human rights and international cooperation for development are upheld.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to continue engaged in the international efforts to address issues of global concern, particularly the fight against poverty the negative impact of climate change and the promotion of sustainable development.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!