

**STATEMENT BY MOZAMBIQUE**

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REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Frances Rodrigues**  
**Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you upon your election to preside over the works of the UNCTAD XI. We are confident that your able guidance will indeed contribute to the success of our deliberations.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to thank the People of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government that you represent for hosting this Conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to the Mozambican delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of São Paulo.

I would also like to commend the work of Mr. Rubens Ricupero, the Secretary General of UNCTAD and his continued personal commitment to the cause of a just and inclusive trading System where the development of most developing countries is taken into consideration, particularly in the context of the current liberalized and globalized world. We value his personal commitment to development, to the cause of Least Developed Countries like Mozambique.

Mr. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen

This XI Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development takes place after the unfortunate failure, in Cancun, to advance WTO Ministerial negotiations in which developing countries had placed hopes that development issues would, at last, be taken into consideration, as agreed during the IV Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2001. Therefore, today we find ourselves in a situation where the WTO members are striving, to restart the negotiation process. We believe that a positive outcome in UNCTAD XI can add new momentum to the search for solutions to the Doha Round, and solutions that provide concrete development provisions for developing countries.

It cannot be overemphasised that the multilateral trading system should be an arena where all players should have equal rights. In an organization where the majority of its membership is composed by developing countries, this can only be achieved by placing the development issues of developing countries on top

of the development agenda.

UNCTAD is about making trade work for development. Thus, it has been the philosophy of the organization: To assist developing countries especially Least Developed Countries, and advise on best policies to accelerate development. This potential of development gains from trade, for example, is appropriately a sub-theme of UNCTAD XI.

Trade has certainly the potential to assist countries to develop. Therefore, the capacities and possibilities of developing countries to reap the benefits of trade liberalisation and the multilateral rules that govern international trade must be addressed if the Millennium Development Goals intended to half our poverty by 2015, are to be achieved as planned.

Mr. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen

Developing countries need not only political commitment from developed countries, but also, deep engagement starting by removing all measures that are impeding fair trade in the global market, particularly in the agriculture sector.

Agriculture protection by many developed countries through either high tariffs or non-tariff barriers has been one source of constraint for market access to products from the Least Developed Countries. High subsidies by the developed countries to agricultural products depress world prices and undermine the competitiveness of the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) agriculture sector. The sectoral initiative on cotton highlights this damaging impact of developed countries subsidies. Besides, protectionist rules of origin of the preferential regimes prevent LDC's from exploiting their comparative advantage of cheaper labour and lower production costs.

How can we then use trade for development if we are not allowed to benefit significantly from expanded market access in products and sectors where we have clearly comparative advantages? In addition, many developing countries, and certainly most LDC'S, do not have the supply capacity that would be necessary to take advantage of enhanced market access. We call on UNCTAD to respond to this challenge. We recall Secretary General Ricupero's exhortation for the international community to focus on supply side issues. It needs, for example, a revitalization of commodities.

I would like to point out that one of the topics on the agenda of the Conference, relating to 'coherence' has a real impact on Developing Countries. It is the lack of coherence between policies of international institutions, and those of Developed Countries that inhibit development

prospects of Developing Countries, ultimately of developed countries themselves. We thus endorse this theme and believe that the subsequent discussions lead to a fruitful outcome.

We continue to stress that UNCTAD work must reflect the integrated three-pillar approach involving consensus building, analysis, and technical assistance. It must focus on the needs and concerns of the least developed countries in particular.

Mr. Chairperson,

We believe that enhanced market access, easier market entry, has to go hand in hand with assistance so as to ensure that we are able to supply to the much more demanding markets of the developed countries. In this regard, it is crucial that policies advocated by both multilateral and bilateral donors in their dealing with LDC's are coordinated and consistent with what is negotiated at the multilateral level.

Mozambique, like many other countries, is a beneficiary of preferential treatment by major developed partners: Everything But Arms under the Cotonou Agreement with EU; AGOA with the US, and Special GSP with other developed and developing country markets. However, my country has not been able to take full advantage of these preferential market access arrangements both because of supply-side constraints and the increasing use of non-tariff barriers.

We also consider that technical and financial assistance is necessary and essential. Mozambique is pleased that it has been included in the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP), and to the fact that the Integrated Framework is likely to be extended to my country. JITAP will enable Mozambique to strengthen its capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system.

It is worth, stressing that the well-being and progress of developing countries is in the interest of everyone not only in the view of prosperity the expansion of market access conditions brings about but also in terms of its contribution to the consolidation of a potentially and socially more secure world.

The multilateral trading system needs also to render a positive contribution towards solving the pressing issue of the fight against HIV/AIDS, a daunting challenge that developing countries have been facing. Access to medicines to fight communicable diseases is crucial for our countries. The fight against HIV/AIDS has become decisive for our development.

Therefore, we reiterate the pertinence of the General Council decision in August last year, allowing for the use of compulsory licensing, under the provisions of the Trips Agreement, which makes room for all the countries without own production capacities, to import generic drugs in case of an emergency situation.

Mr. Chairperson  
Ladies and Gentlemen

We remain fully committed to work with UNCTAD and other international organizations involved in assistance to Mozambique's Plan of Action for Poverty Reduction, along with other complementary policies to achieve this objective.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, let me say how much enthusiastic we would be if in the coming 4 years we could meet again and see that we have succeeded in implementing all our decisions and strategies and in reducing poverty by 25%, or more, in line with the MDG "s. This can only be possible if our partners decide to commit themselves to that: by providing technical assistance, transfer of technology and training to make a difference. I would like to assume that with our commitment and engagement of all of us we feel prepared for the challenges ahead.

Lets work together towards a successful conclusion of UNCTAD XI. Lets mandate UNCTAD to assist us in new and innovative ways and means that make trade truly an engine of growth and development ways and means to make the multilateral trading system work for the poor.

Trade can, must and should be a tool for the beneficial integration of developing countries, and the Least developed among them, into the Global Economy.

Mozambique is ready to play its part in this effort!

I thank you!