

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. ANTÓNIO GUMENDE,  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AT THE  
48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4:  
“GENERAL DEBATE ON NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN POPULATION  
MATTERS: REALIZING THE FUTURE WE WANT: INTEGRATING  
POPULATION ISSUES INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
INCLUDING IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”**

**NEW YORK, 13 APRIL, 2015**

**Madame Chair,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates**

At the outset, allow me to express Mozambique's alignment with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and of Niger, on behalf of the African Group.

Mozambique attaches particular importance to the theme of this general debate *"Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the Post-2015 Development Agenda"*, given that its overall framework is people-centered.

Intended as universal and transformative, we are confident that, once adopted, the full implementation of the agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, will enable us to meet the challenges that our population faces today.

Global and regional cooperation, as well as South – South cooperation, are critical for the attainment of the SDGs. The same efforts rendered for the successful implementation of the Cairo Agenda on Population and Development should be made to ensure the positive outcome we all aspire.

**Madame Chair,**

To seize the opportunity and the potential that the 46% of youth population represents for the country to accelerate its economic growth, Mozambique elaborated its national evaluation on the window of opportunity to realize the demographic dividend.

The results of this evaluation point to a number of challenges but also a number of opportunities. Among the challenges we highlight:

- ✓ Youth unemployment;
- ✓ Promotion of economic growth;
- ✓ Enhancement of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services;
- ✓ Respect for Human Rights; and
- ✓ Expansion of Access to Family Planning Services.

To respond to the identified challenges, we have adopted and put in place a set of instruments to guide the necessary interventions regarding the realization of the demographic dividend through youth empowerment, promotion of human rights, job creation, especially for youths; and promotion of access to health and education. Examples of such instruments are the National Population Policy; Youth Policy and National Development Strategy, just to mention a few.

The National Population Policy provides guidance on what are the current population challenges that need to be addressed, particularly the issue of

the prevailing high fertility rates and points out the strategies to address them.

In its turn, the youth policy states clearly the specific problems affecting youth with emphasis to access to adequate education and unemployment.

The National Development Strategy identifies the issue of unemployment, in particular of the youth as related to the current education system which does not train youngsters to respond to the needs of the current labor market. In this regard, one of the key pillars of this device is the development of human capital in terms of prioritizing professional and vocational training, health and other basic needs for human development.

The promotion of Small and Median Enterprises (SME's) is also considered in recognition of their capacity to create jobs.

In closing, we would like to point out, Madam Chair, that Mozambique is currently working to ensure effective integration of population issues within the key Government planning instruments, as a strategy to properly address demographic variables that are critical to promote economic growth and development, particularly fertility, growth rate, maternal and infant mortality among others.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Mozambique with the ICPD Plan of Action and its integration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you for your attention.