



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**MOZAMBIQUE STATEMENT TO THE 47TH SESSION OF
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

New York, 07-11 April 2014

First of all we would like to express our gratitude to the organizers for the invitation extended to Mozambique to attend this very important meeting and given the opportunity to intervene. In fact 20 years of implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action is a considerable lapse of time and much progress has been achieved.

I'll focus my intervention in two areas: first about the achievements we have testified in our country as part of the ICPD Plan of Action and second the regional cooperation between SADC member states.

Since the approval of the Cairo Plan of Action, Mozambique as part of the commitments assumed in Cairo approved its Population Policy aiming at harmonizing population growth with development in order to achieve welfare for all Mozambicans.

During the 20 years of Cairo Plan of Action implementation, in our country, despite the challenges we still face, we can proudly say much was achieved. Just to mention few examples we can name:

- **Education:** In terms of universal access to education, 74% of children representing 3 millions of school children aged 6-12 years are in school. 52% of people aged 15-49 years, can read, write and count in Portuguese. Women are progressively participating in adult education programs set by the Government and its partners. Currently 40% of women are literate. Although this percentage still low, it represents an important achievement when compared with where we come from.
- **Health:** Infant mortality now stands at 64 deaths per 1000 live births. It means that the millennium development goal was achieved for this indicator. Maternal Mortality is still a challenge. In the 1990's we use to have 1000 deaths per 100,000 live births. Now this indicator stands at 408 deaths per 100,000 live births which still high and unacceptable. The Government is committed to ensure that every child goes to school; everyone has adequate health care, human rights are respected and the country move fast toward elimination of preventable diseases and work towards the eradication of poverty so that a growing number of Mozambicans achieve acceptable living standards and live in dignity.
- **Women Empowerment:** Women in Mozambique are now occupying their naturally given space in all spheres of life. 40% of parliamentarians are women. In the Government, 29% of Ministers are women, 20% deputy Ministers, 36% are provincial governors. The challenge now is to more and more empower women economically through sustainable income generation programs.
- **Cooperation and Partnership:** The SADC region countries, as part of the Cairo Plan of Action recommendations, have since its adoption engaged themselves in sharing experiences and good practices concerning population and development issues. We recall here the Southern Africa Forum on

Population and Development (SAFPAD) and the Southern Africa Ministers' Conference on Population and Development (SAMCPD). These two meetings were held every two years in a selected country to assess progress made regarding Cairo Plan of Action Implementation.

- Mozambique has since then been cooperating with regional forums as well as the UN agencies, such as the UNECA and UNFPA in every five years progress review having responded promptly to Cairo+5 (1999), Cairo+10 (2004), Cairo +15 (2009) and recently to Cairo +20.
- As part of the ICPD review process, in its capacity as chair of SADC, Mozambique hosted Technical and Ministerial Meetings to discuss progress in implementing the ICPD Plan of Action. The result of these meeting is a SADC region report that was shared with the Member States and Other relevant entities.
- With pride, this report in the SADC region shows that despite constraints of various kinds, SADC countries have made remarkable and important progress in improving the living conditions of their people. Diseases and Poverty are now being left behind in our region and many of these improvements have been achieved over the last 20 years. That is to say that the Cairo Plan of Action brought a significant contribution in the process of planning and development of SADC countries.

To conclude we would like to reaffirm Mozambique's commitment to continue to work and cooperate with regional and international entities to the achievement of the Cairo Plan of Action as well as the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention