



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**Statement  
by  
Her Excellency Mrs. Alcinda de Abreu  
Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs**

**At  
The General Debate  
of  
The High-Level Segment**

**Of  
The 2010 ECOSOC Substantive Session**

**New York, 1<sup>st</sup>. June 2010**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to you, Mr. President and all other members of the Bureau, for the productive manner you have been conducting the proceedings of ECOSOC. We also pay tribute to your predecessor for the remarkable work done during her term of presidency.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statements delivered by Yemen on behalf of the Group 77 and China and Nepal on behalf of LDCs.

Mr. President,

This Session constitutes an excellent opportunity to enhance the role and relevance of the UN in the promotion of policy dialogue and providing guidance in addressing the most pressing global challenge of today's world, in particular those related to the empowerment of women and gender equality.

We seize this opportunity to commend the Secretary General for his comprehensive report, as well as to concur with his timely analysis on current global challenges and their impact on women and gender relations. Indeed, as a woman, I can feel in my skin our disproportional suffering in times of crisis or hardship, as witnessed during the recent financial, economic and food crisis, and from the impact of climate change as correctly pointed out by the Secretary General's report.

Equally my delegation endorses the policy recommendations contained in this report, to which Mozambique stands ready to fully support and use as guidance for the national efforts in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, it is our strong believe that the role of women in poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development deserves a pragmatic and action oriented attention in this Session, because poverty adverse effects disproportionately affect women. Therefore, concerted efforts at regional and global levels are required to complement national actions to eradicate poverty and other challenges that hamper



the attainment of internationally agreed development, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

Mozambican Government has been undertaking tremendous efforts aiming at raising the status of women both in public and private sectors to gradually overcome the gender inequities especially in the Government, Parliament, municipalities and communities. As a result of these efforts, 39.2% of the current National Parliament membership comprises of women and 8 Ministers, 5 Deputy Ministers and 3 provincial Governors are women. Mozambique had a woman Prime Minister from 2004 to 2010 and the actual Speaker of the Parliament is a woman.

Mozambique has also recorded a successful implementation of CEDAW and has created a national machinery for women empowerment and gender equality; developed gender equality policies; reviewed national legislation that discriminate against women and girls; developed and is implementing gender strategies on health, education, agriculture, energy, environment and climate change.

The results of the girl child education program are very enthusiastic. The net enrolment rate in primary school has achieved a national average of 95.5% where girls represent 46.8%. Maternal and child mortality are reducing and poverty dropped from 69.4% in to 54.1% in 2003 and further reduced to 45% in 2009.

Despite these recorded positive results, more still needs to be done, especially with regards to women's health. We are scaling-up efforts to fight against HIV/AIDS, where the prevalent rate is yet significant, in particular among female. We also need to improve the field of education and training for girls and women in order to provide them with important tools for real empowerment.

In conclusion, my delegation is of the view that UN and particularly ECOSOC needs to continue to strengthening its role and capacity to respond to emerging challenges for the success of national efforts towards the participation of women in poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and mitigation and the promotion of sustainable development. Political will should be

renewed in order to accelerate the achievement of Millennium Development Goals targeted at 2015.

Last, Mr. President, we fully support the Entity for Women empowerment and Gender Equality. This entity is a fundamental leadership tool of the UN development system to ensure an adequate support and critical assistance to national governments in the implementation of their national strategies and programs for the advancement of women, gender equality and the fulfillment of women human rights. It is grateful that the General Assembly just concluded yesterday the process of its establishment. In this regard, Mozambique pledges its readiness to collaborate for its timely operationalization.

I thank you all for your kind attention.