



Equal treatment for all citizens

An inalienable right

Address by HE Armando Emilio Guebuza

President of the Republic of Mozambique

At

**The High Level meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations to
“commemorative the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration
and Action Plan against Racism in Durban, Racial Discrimination,
Xenophobia and Related Intolerance associate”**

New York, September 22, 2011

His Majesty;
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
His Excellency Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of
the General Assembly;
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
Distinguished Heads of Delegation;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

We congratulate the previous speakers for their interventions and welcome the convening of this High-level Meeting to collectively reflect on the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action.

We also wish to congratulate the President of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, for the way in which he has been conducting our proceedings and for providing invaluable contribution to the success of our deliberations.

President
Fellow Heads of State and Government

The protection and promotion of human rights in general and the protection of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular, constitute a major priority for the Government of the Republic of Mozambique. Our position stems from the recognition of the constitutional principle of equality among all Mozambican citizens before the law regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, colour, sex, marital status, profession or political affiliation. Also in this context, our constitutional framework reaffirms, develops and strengthens the fundamental principles of the Mozambican State and establishes the sovereign character of the democratic rule of law, based on pluralism of expression and respect and guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.

In terms of support to refugee, Mozambique ratified in 1988, the Convention of the Organization of African Unity on specific aspects of

refugee problems in Africa. With a view to effective implementation of the Convention, the Government has created the National Institute for the Support to Refugees and approved the Regulation on the Process of granting the Status of Refugees.

President;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

The United Nations plays a key role in the articulation of a comprehensive strategy to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In this regard, it is important that our organization continues, at global scale, to fight:

- ❖ for more peace and security;
- ❖ for more democracy and inclusion, and
- ❖ for more dialogue between civilizations and cultures.

Furthermore, the United Nations should continue to promote its agenda of fighting poverty, as stated in the Millennium Development Goals, and keep the flame alive on the need to reach a binding agreement on climate change.

Admittedly, these and other issues of political, social and economic dimension are factors that induce immigration. Therefore, we should continue to pay particular attention for the elimination of these factors. These are complex challenges and, although they may occur in a particular state or region they end up having an impact on a global level so that their solutions should necessarily be global in nature. In this context, the United Nations presents itself as a forum to lead these processes.

In the context of implementation of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action let us all reaffirm our commitment to eliminate all discriminatory practices against immigrants, through formulating and implementing in our respective legal migration policies consistent with instruments, standards and applicable human rights principles.

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique will continue to work hard and firm, and with the same determination as before, in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. To this end, we will continue in our efforts in view to consolidating democratic institutions,

improving legislation and promoting good governance. Within the framework of international commitments on human rights we will continue to participate actively in the work of the Human Rights Council and in other relevant fora and to accede to various existing legal instruments on this matter.

President

Ladies and Gentlemen

We would like, once again, to salute the achievement of this collective reflection and call upon all Member States to do their part in implementing the commitments of Durban.

Thank you for your attention!