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STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY ANTÓNIO GUMENDE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

***AGENDA ITEM 82 - THE RULE OF LAW AT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS***

New York, 10 October 2014

Mr. Chairman

Allow me to start by congratulating you upon your election to preside over the work of the Sixth Committee of the 69th session of the General Assembly. Our compliments are also extended to the other member of the Bureau.

We are confident that under your able chairmanship this session will bear desirable results. Mr. Chairman, you can count on the support of the delegation of Mozambique in the discharge of your noble duties.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of _____ on behalf of the _____.

Mr. Chairman

This session of the General Assembly takes place at a time of great challenges to the principles and values that underpin the rule of law at national and international levels. In this regard, we welcome this debate as it represents yet another opportunity for member states to strengthen their resolve to promote the culture of legality and the primacy of the rule of law, based on the full respect of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the International Law, precondition for peace, stability and socio-economic development and, indeed for the peaceful co-existence among states.

Therefore, Mozambique values the role plaid by the United Nations, as the custodian of international legal frameworks, in the promotion of universal adherence to the said principles and to International Law, as reflected in the detailed reports of the Secretary General, contained in documents A/69/181 and A/68/213/Add.1, before this Committee.

Mr. Chairman

At the international level, our efforts should continue to aim at the goal of increasing the codification and progressive development of international law, to adequately respond to the evolving challenges before us. In doing so, the international community should pay special attention to the promotion of ratifications and the full implementation of core international treaties, concomitant with the required support that some member states may require for the latter.

To this end, we acknowledge the growing role of international institutions in upholding the rule of law, mainly on the field of international humanitarian law, as well as the United Nations pledge to be in the front line of combating against the impunity. In addition, the United Nations efforts, through its support and training programmes and through its annual ceremony of ratification of treaties, which takes place here at its Headquarters, are worth noting.

A special tribute should be paid to the *International Law Commission* and the *Sixth Committee*, for their role in the production and dissemination of international treaties. We also support the work of the *Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group*, together with the Secretariat unit, as primary bodies that guarantee the necessary overall coordination of the system's activities.

Mr. Chairman

At the national level, Mozambique remains committed to promote the adherence to the rule of law by, among others, ensuring the domestic implementation of international obligations in good faith, strengthen its democratic institutions, including the reform of the system of justice to protect human rights and ensure an effective administration of justice, both quantitative and qualitatively.

We strongly believe that through good governance and the adherence to the rule of law we can deliver more effective socio-economic development, ensure the participation of our people in decision-making, and secure the respect for human rights, and thus consolidate peace and stability at national level.

In order to meet the challenges of an evolving democratic political system and to enhance the rule of law, Mozambique reviewed its Constitution to consolidate and deepen the fundamental guiding principles that guide our governance. As a result, we have advanced the democratic rule of law, founded on freedom of expression, free political party affiliation, and respect of citizen's fundamental rights and freedoms.

To ensure the constitutional right of equality of all peoples before the law, Mozambique continues to consolidate the role of the established oversight institutions, namely the Constitutional Court, the Attorney General Office, The Anti-Corruption Office, the Parliament Complaints Commission, and the recently established Human Rights Commission.

Furthermore, and in view of strengthening individual guarantees and make the Government and the public administration more accountable, Mozambique is also empowering the *ombudsman office*.

As a result, significant achievements have been made, among others, on the development and training of human resources, the creation of infrastructures and on the legal reform.

Mr. Chairman

The rule of law is of paramount importance in addressing corruption, one of the challenges to public confidence, accountability, legitimacy, and transparency of governance.

Therefore Mozambique has embarked on the fight against corruption that includes the adoption of relevant legislation to this effect. To strengthen the existing national anti-corruption laws Mozambique recently passed a Public Probity Law, aiming at preventing that public office holders or civil servants, including politicians, misappropriate public funds or profit from their positions while serving public institutions. The law intends to combat corruption and to instill appropriate moral behaviour and consolidate good practices within the public administration service.

Within the framework of good governance and accountability, the annual audit of the state's budget has been pursued by the Government. The audit is carried out by the Administrative Court which, acting as an Auditor General, independently scrutinizes the disbursements and the expenditure of the state's budget and submits its findings to the Parliament for check and balance purposes.

In addition, as means to prevent misuse of public resources and to ensure the protection of citizens' rights, Mozambique also established administrative courts in every province.

The constitutional, democratic and judicial reforms mentioned above were preceded by a process of public consultations which constituted an opportunity for citizens, politicians, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the decision making process.

Mr Chairman

Let me conclude by reaffirm the political commitment of Mozambique to uphold the rule of law at national and international levels.

Thank You!