

Statement

by

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at the

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Chairman of the UNFF16

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I would like to thank you for the invitation to attend the Sixteen Session of the United Nation Forum on Forests on virtual mode in line with the health and safety measures in response to COVID-19.

I would like to congratulate you Mr. Chairman and the Bureau of the Forum on your election, and would like to express confidence in the leadership of this Sixteen Session of United Nations Forum on Forests.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statement delivered by DRC on behalf of the African Group and by Guinea on behalf of Group 77 and China.

Ladies,

Gentlemen,

Once more we are congregated for a technical session, and among other discussions will consider and adopt the 4 year Plan of work for 2021-2024. The forum will also look at the review cycle of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the theme of the 2021 International Day of Forests which highlights the FOREST RESTORATION: a Path to Recovery and Well-being. We equally intent to discuss the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, emerging issues including impacts of COVID-19 on forests and forest sector, means of implementation, Facilitation Network and availability of resources and UNFF Trust Fund.

As we move forward in the implementation of the strategic Plan Mozambique has conducted a national Forest inventory, which indicates that the country has 40% of forest cover equivalent to 31.6 million hectares of which 17.0 are suitable for the production of

commercially valuable goods and 15 forest reserves occupying 510 thousand ha.

Taking into account the importance of indigenous forests we are promoting the forest conservation and the sustainable use of forests, as well as the restoration and establishment of forest plantations which covers an area of 7 million ha.

Mozambique forest sector as the rest of the world have been affected by the impact of the Pandemic. Nevertheless the country 5 Year Program of work highlights the following forest sector priorities:

- Restoration and implementation of afforestation strategies to expand forests planted areas,
- to strengthen the processing industries at national level as it guarantees of the economic growth and poverty eradication,
- to strengthen the law enforcement of the forest resources,
- to increase the participation of the local communities on the sustainable forest management
- to review and update implement the education and awareness campaigns spreading out the importance of the participatory forest management, control of uncontrolled forest fires, reduction of the deforestation among others.
- to cancel authorization for new areas for forestry concessions;
- to ban exports of logs and beams;
- to reduce pressure from illegal logging in conservation areas
- To promote primary and secondary processing and increase efficiency in the transformation and improvement of the quality and competitiveness standards of national forest products through the establishment of industrial parks for the processing of forest products;
- To establish a Forest Information System that will allow digitization of the entire forest management process.

- To develop and implement forest research programs by creating mechanisms to integrate the forest research center within the directorate of forestry
- to establish the national forest monitoring system;
- to develop participatory programs to control, prevent and combat uncontrolled fires, deforestation and forest degradation;

In order to implement successfully the forest sector priorities the following activities are being developed

1. Establishment of mechanisms for channeling 20% of the of harvesting forest rate for the benefit of local communities living in areas where the exploitation of these resources occurs;
2. Review the forest policy
3. Reduction of Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) National strategy which links climate Change and forests;
4. Increase number of Forest Concessions to guarantee SFM;
5. Increase of the exports of processed products with bigger added value which contribute for job creation and improvement of livelihoods;

Ladies, & Gentlemen, ,

In Mozambique, several communities and associations are under “shared subsidy scheme” through “Sustenta” Landscape Program that includes natural resources from which forest areas are being restored and planted in Zambeze Province which aligns with the main team of this Sixteen Session of the Forum on Forests “FOREST RESTORATION: a Path to Recovery and Well-being”.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.