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## ADDRESS

By

**H.E. MR. ARMANDO EMÍLIO GUEBUZA**  
President of the Republic of Mozambique

delivered at the

61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly on the Theme:

*Implementing Global Partnerships for Development*

**National, Regional and International Partnerships Weaved  
Together:**

**their role in the promotion of development, international  
peace and security**

New York, 21 September, 2006

Madam President,

On behalf of the People and Government of the Republic of Mozambique, and indeed, on my own behalf, I would like to place on record our congratulations on your election as President of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are delighted to see a distinguished daughter of Bahrain in the stewardship of the highest organ of the United Nations.

We reiterate our congratulations to your predecessor, His Excellency Jan Eliasson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, for his leadership during the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. Through you, Madam President, we would like to congratulate him for the commendable work done during his tenure of office.

We would also like to pay a glowing tribute to His Excellency Kofi Annan, for his accomplishments during his mandate as Secretary General of the United Nations. We commend the devotion and tireless efforts of this son of Africa, our Continent, for his work for the promotion of international peace, security and development as well as for having launched solid foundations for wide ranging reforms of the United Nations.

Madam President,

One of the issues on which our debate focused last year, relates to development. At that occasion, we noted, with concern, that there was a substantive lack of progress in forging partnerships to that end. In this regard, we would like to salute you, Madam President, for bringing the theme "*Implementing Global Partnership for Development*" for debate by this session.

We live in an ever growing unbalanced world in which developing countries find themselves in a vicious cycle of dependency and vulnerability. This plight undermines our efforts to address, speedily and successfully, the challenges that prevent us from sounder economic growth and which weaken our capacity to deal, more effectively and with greater impact, with the various manifestations of poverty and to fight, more vigorously, diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Given our state of development we are, more often than not, powerless to prevent or mitigate the impact of natural disasters and environmental degradation. Consequently, poverty prevents part of our Humanity that is located in developing countries from enjoying the freedom of choice and action that the other part of Mankind takes for granted.

The merit of the theme you have brought forward, Madam President, is that it provides us with yet another opportunity to reflect on issues we have dealt with in the past in searching solutions

for the remaining challenges imposed by underdevelopment. It also lends itself to a debate of, at least, three important issues related to underdevelopment. The first is that no country alone, however resourceful it is, can successfully overcome these challenges on its own, at least in the medium term, given their complexity and inter-relationships with other global problems and phenomena. The second point that can be inferred from this theme is that while underdevelopment can be attributed to a given country its consequences transcend national borders. They go beyond geographical boundaries to, on the one hand, affect national security and demography elsewhere and, on the other, to raise moral obligations, of new dimension, as well as material challenges in other societies.

The third issue relates to a static view of poverty. The poor need to regain self-confidence that, like other people in other parts of the world, they too, can rid themselves from the shackles of poverty. By the same token, those who can assist also need to overcome the deep rooted views that, on the one hand, the poor will not escape from poverty as they are destined to remain poor. On the other hand, they also need to overcome the preconceived idea that development must be imposed from outside.

This discussion brings us back to our realization that given the global nature of the challenges facing us today we have no choice but to weave together the national, regional and global partnerships. As a result, we have adopted the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration. The expectation was that these consensus would translate, in concrete terms, our commitment to forge global partnerships for development. Regrettably, little has so far been achieved. Abject poverty remains a feature in the majority of developing countries.

Therefore, we need to reiterate our commitment to work together towards achieving the well being of all Humanity. Mankind is not a far fetched concept, ladies and gentlemen: for example, the very fact that the language I am using now can be translated into the other languages of the planet is a clear demonstration of how we belong to the same Humanity. Let us, therefore, redouble our efforts so as not to frustrate the expectations of those billions of citizens worldwide, both in the developed and in the developing countries alike. All of them are longing for a fairer, prosperous and peaceful world. Through these partnerships we can also, more effectively, contribute to conflict resolution in Africa, in the Middle East and in the world, at large.

Madam President,

At this junction, we would like to share with this august assembly our experience and views on the role and place of partnerships to overcome the challenges before us today.

At the national level, we are of the view that the development projects must be owned and driven by its ultimate beneficiaries. In this regard, the Government creates and promotes an environment that facilitates the honing of self-esteem, promotes recourse to individual creativity and supports incremental development. At the same, it encourages and sustains partnerships with other collective development actors such is the case of civil society organizations, the private sector and the international cooperating partners. Some of the products of this approach to governance are:

- ❖ the Second Action Plan to Eradicate Absolute Poverty for the period 2006-2009, drawn with the active participation of civil society organizations;
- ❖ the Annual Meetings with the Private Sector;
- ❖ the Meetings of the Social Partners: government, trade unions and employers;
- ❖ the National Forum for the African Peer Review Mechanism; and
- ❖ the Joint Review Meetings between the Government and the Development Partners involved in Direct Budget Support.

These partnerships are held together by our adherence to an open and inclusive governance. They are also sustained by the collective commitment of various stakeholders engaged in the development of Mozambique to reduce the incidence of absolute poverty from 54%, in 2003, to 45%, in 2009. The environment of peace and stability in which we live and promote, also contribute to enhance these partnerships.

Madam President,

Regional cooperation plays an important role in building and sustaining partnerships for development. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a case in point. Since its birth, SADC has been playing a crucial role in promoting political, economic and social integration of countries and peoples of the region. At the same time, SADC allows that a given number of its member states take initiatives that further its ultimate objective of a more prosperous region. It was under this principle that Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe launched, last August, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. This project aims at transforming

an area with approximately thirty five thousand square kilometers, rich in biodiversity, into a development hub.

Viewed as one of the building blocs of the African Union, SADC plays an important role in promoting the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), the African Union road map to prosperity. We would like to seize this opportunity to commend the international community for aligning their assistance, more closely, with the NEPAD priorities. We would also like to encourage our development partners to increase their support to NEPAD.

By deciding on the continuation of the revitalization process of the Non Aligned Movement, last week in Havana, the Non Aligned Summit put greater emphasis on the role of the Movement should play in forging partnerships among the countries of the South, as part of the global partnerships. Thus, the Non Aligned Movement reinvigorated the Bandung spirit, which, as we all know, inspired the establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

Madam President,

In addition to the Monterrey Consensus, we advocate the increase of the international financial support, including the Official Development Assistance and Foreign Direct Investment for countries such as ours, with potential for agriculture, agro-industry and tourism.

Similarly, we are for the establishment of a fairer and favorable global trading system more conducive to sustainable development of developing countries. In this context, we regret the lack of progress in the Doha Development Round and we urge developed countries to be more flexible, within the framework of World Trade Organization, to the needs of developing countries. We reiterate this appeal because we are convinced that our partners do not want to witness the perpetuation of the marginalization of developing countries from the global economy.

The assessment made in 2005 indicates that a number of developing countries are making progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Mozambique is part of this positive trend. However, to ensure that this positive trend is irreversible, we would like to call upon the development partners to continue to provide substantial and timely support for the priorities identified by the recipient countries. We believe that our partners are also touched, in their souls, by the poverty that still afflicts that part of Humanity.

Madam President,

To conclude, we would like to emphasize the need to the United Nations reforms forward, as stated by the distinguished speakers who intervened before us. We all recognize the UN potential to forge effective partnerships for development. Therefore, we reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to contribute for the success of the reform process, always bearing in mind the need to safeguard the inter-governmental nature of the United Nations.

Mozambique is proud to have her Primer Minister, Dr Luisa Diogo, as one of the co-Chairs of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence in the areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Environment, established by the Secretary General. It is our belief that the report of the Panel will contribute to the success of the UN reforms.

A reformed United Nations will be better placed to respond to the global challenges imposed by the need to strengthening international law, multilateralism and in promoting partnerships for development, worldwide.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.