



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Office of the President

PROTECTING OUR PLANET AND COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement By His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique at the 70th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

New York, 26 September 2015

YOUR EXCELLENCY BAN KI MOON, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION,
YOUR EXCELLENCY MOGENS LYKKETOFT, CHAIRPERSON OF THE 70TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Nature has always been only one. Life has never had borders. Natural resources have always been finite. For centuries our specie has acted as if it was the only owner of the Planet. We are paying a high price for this ignorance. Today there is no nation - there is no human being that is spared for this arrogance. Climate change is a wakeup call which warns us that there is a need to change, it is urgent that we correct this. We need to change practices and attitudes for the sake of our common survival.

It has been this noble institution that in 1987 warned us on the danger of environmental imbalances. The Brundtland Report, also known as “Our common future” already highlighted the limits of unregulated use of resources. It was already clear that economics and politics should respect ecological processes of our planet. Most specifically, a new culture and new attitudes should be adopted. We are not the owners. We are dwellers. All of us should take care of our only home.

That is the reason why the theme: ***PROTECTING OUR PLANET AND COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE*** is a central concern which requires our intervention as collective entities and as individuals. If urgent, concerted and right steps are not taken, we may compromise our own existence as mankind. In the final analysis, we are not just protecting our planet. We and the planet are together, taking care of life itself.

Mozambique is quite cognizant of the effects of these climate changes. Due to geographic factors and the limited response capacity aggravated by poor access to appropriate technologies, Mozambique is extremely vulnerable to these phenomena.

- It is true that climate in Mozambique features alternate periods of droughts and floods. However, it seems clear that the frequency and intensity of these events have significantly increased. In effect, extreme climate phenomena, such as floods, droughts and cyclones have been occurring more frequently. These events compromise agricultural production, with serious implications in food security of our population. In the course of this year the Central and Northern regions of the Country were affected by heavy rains resulting in the loss of human lives, destruction of economic and social infrastructures, as well as vast fields of different crops and environmental degradation.

As Africans we feel that we have a responsibility in addressing this vulnerability. But we know that Africa is one the continents that contributes less for the genesis of climate change. Africa despite not being the main responsible is the most vulnerable continent to climate change impacts which affect, in particular, the sector of food security and infrastructures. It is important to say this here, my dear friends, because it is not a matter of placing ourselves in a position of victims. It is a question of highlighting the sense of justice and effectiveness in global measures that should be undertaken to protect our planet.

Mr. President,

Our country is aware of its responsibility for the success of COP21. Mozambique is developing proposals for the Future Climate Regime, whose actions focus mainly on adaptation and taking advantage of mitigation opportunities that contribute to poverty reduction and promote Sustainable Development.

We have also commenced the development of the National Action Programme for Adaptation and National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

The implementation of these instruments will go a long way in reducing climate risks within the communities and in the national economy, promoting clean development with low carbon emission which contributes to green economy.

In a progressive way, we are integrating climate resilience in our planning and development instruments covering Districts through Local Adaptation Plans, territorial planning in order to reduce climate risks and improve agricultural and fisheries production.

We are also strengthening the national hydro-meteorological observation, knowledge production and raising awareness with the communities and other stakeholders.

This comprehensive programme is being carried out by our country with a twofold awareness that this is indeed what we need to do with the understanding that our effort can only make sense if we all do our part.

Mr. President,

This year of 2015 can remain in the history of our quest for a better environment. We have, before, held the twentieth first Conference of the Parties in Paris. With the adoption of the Future Climate Regime, we believe that the conditions to meet the desired global objective of keeping temperature increase below 2 Degrees Celsius will be created.

We are hopeful that the Future Climate Regime for the period post-2020 will be adopted during the Paris Conference on Climate Change (COP 21). Programmes likely to reverse the growing trend of greenhouse gases emissions are clearly defined. This programme was designed to respect global and national interests.

We have this hope because we believe that all Member States attach the same priority to this problem. We hope that the measures to be adopted will be binding on all Parties. We hope that the burden of adaptation and mitigation measures will be split in a balanced manner into the whole set of nations. We expect that implementation means should be thought in a proportional way. Last, we hope everything will be done to support the implementation of commitments.

- The global situation is so serious that we should not just content ourselves with the approval of appeals or protocols which are not fully assumed by all.

Mozambique is committed and will remain committed to international efforts to minimise the impact of climate change. We are not doing this only for economic reasons. But for the sake of the Planet Earth and Life we have pledged to uphold.

We hope the developed countries will meet their commitments, particularly with regard to climate funding, technology and *knowhow* transfer.

We are for a healthy environment for healthy life.

I thank you for your attention.