



Check Against Delivery

***REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE***

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***ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC***

**Address by Honourable Verónica Nataniel Macamo Ndlhovo,  
Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic on the occasion of the  
Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

**(New York, 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September)**

**His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

**Honourable President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Distinguished Members of the High Table**

**Honourable Speakers**

**Honourable Members of Parliament**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is with immense joy that I address you on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

It is a great honor to be here and share views and experiences with you.

**Excellencies**

**"Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: *Building the World the People want*"**, is undoubtedly a special and important topic at a time when we are facing various challenges that undermine the cause of peace itself, security and global development, demanding from all of us coordinated efforts aimed formulating strategies in order to find solutions to tackle the problems.

Our Parliaments should enact laws and adopt policies intended to meet the needs of the people.

Both men and women should equally participate in the political, economic and socio-cultural life of their own countries.

Effective participation of youth in the economic, political and socio-cultural development of their countries should be regarded as extremely important.

Our countries should work hard to guarantee the access to adequate health and education, employment and self-employment as well as full exercise of fundamental freedoms.

**Excellencies,**

It is urgent that we strengthen cooperation for the implementation of relevant UN resolutions, international conventions and agreements relating to democracy, international peace and security, disarmament, terrorism, climate change and sustainable development.

We also have to create conditions to ensure a successful implementation of the Agenda Post-2015 to be adopted by our Heads of State and Governments in this upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Session of the United Nations.

**Mr President  
Excellencies,**

The Parliament of Mozambique which I represent here results from the 5<sup>th</sup> Multi-Party elections held recently, a fact which confirms the consolidation of democracy in my country.

Our Parliament is committed, in the spirit of dialogue and political tolerance, to building a common vision that aims at the consolidation and preservation of peace and stability, promotion of democracy and human rights in favor of the prosperity and well-being of the Mozambican people.

As it regards to the issue of gender, allow me to say that the Parliament of Mozambique is presided by a woman Speaker and two of the three Parliamentary Groups have been headed by women in these two last consecutive terms.

Our Parliament consists of 250 Members of Parliament and 94 MPs out of this total are women MPs, which corresponds to nearly 39%.

In various organs of the Mozambican State, we have been engaged in implementing the Beijing Platform. As an example, let me mention the fact that our Attorney General is a woman.

In addition, since the establishment of Local Governments (Municipalities) in Mozambique in 1997, we have up to the present 55 Municipal Assemblies and, in 2007 the Provincial Legislatures were also established, expanding and consolidating the organs of democratic representation in the country.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Excellences,**

Mozambique champions the idea that divergences among Mozambicans should be solved through dialogue, because it is through dialogue that we come to terms: **nothing justifies violence; violence only brings sorrow, grief and destruction!**

Before I finish, I would like to reiterate that we should use democracy efficiently to meet the needs of our peoples.

Finally, allow me to quote Nelson Mandela, the freedom icon, "*Democracy with hunger and with the majority of the people lacking education and health, is like an empty shell*". End of quote.

**Exellencies,**

Let us use democracy to build a better world where everyone feels life is worth living.

**And for your kind attention I say:**

- Thank you
- Merci beaucoup
- Gracias
- Chucran
- Assante sana and  
**Muito obrigado**