



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

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**Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Dr. Esperança Machavela, Minister of Justice**

**of the**

**Republic of Mozambique**

**High-Level Segment**

**of the**

**Human Rights Council**

**Geneva, June 2006**

**Mr. President**

**Madame High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Distinguished Members of the Human Rights Council**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to join the previous speakers in congratulating the President of the Council, Ambassador de Alba for his election to the I Session of the Human Rights Council. Our congratulations are also extended to the distinguished members of the Bureau. I am confident that under your skilful guidance our deliberations will be crowned with success.

We salute the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Kofi Annan for leading the reforms of the United Nations system in order to make our common institution more effective and responsible to the challenge of the new millennium. His vision shared with the world leaders last September led to the crucial decision to create the Human Rights Council in order to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery.

We congratulate the newly elected members of the Council and my delegation reaffirms the commitment of the government of Mozambique in its cooperation for the success of the work of the Council.

We strongly believe that the new Council will be able to contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of member States to comply with their human rights obligations. It should promote cooperation, constructive dialogue and develop means and ways to enhance capacity building, technical assistance and human rights education.

In this context, the Human Rights Council work must be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, and objectivity. The mandate of the Council should be based on the principle that all human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible, and interdependent.

**Mr. President**

Mozambique welcomes the establishment of the Human Rights Council, and supports the universal periodic review mechanism. The experience of PEAR review mechanism established by NEPAD in Africa proved to be assertive, since



it provides space for dialog and partnership between the Governments and all stakeholders, in the promotion of good governance and human rights.

It is our sincere hope that the agenda of the Human Rights Council will have a fair and balanced approach, taking into account the need to ensure equal attention and treatment to both civil and political rights as well as to the economic, social and cultural rights, including the Right to Development, which is of great importance particularly, to the developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

One of the challenges in the agenda of the Council is to establish the correct balance of interdependence of the civil rights and the right to the development. In fact, nowadays nobody questions the universality of human rights understood as political and civil rights. However, the full capacity to enjoy these rights presupposes the capacity of the individual to exercise them and to the states to provide the mechanisms, which allow the citizen to enjoy extensively their rights.

A vast majority of the population lives in absolute poverty. People are still dying from hunger, infantile mal-nutrition, from diseases that can be prevented and from diseases that the science already discovered the cure. Natural disasters still kill even in those cases in which the science can deceive the effects. The prevalence of this situation will continue to stain the collective conscience of the United Nations as incapacity in guaranteeing the enjoyment of the most elementary of human rights: the right to life.

The manner in which the Council set out the question of sharing the scientific progresses and the technology to the service of the humanity's development will make difference in the way we perceive the human rights.

**Mr. President**

My delegation would like to see the Council of Human Rights taking the leadership on the gender equality issue. It is our expectation that the Council be engaged in the advocacy and monitory in the implementation of the United Nations Conventions related to the women's rights.

In many of our countries, Mr. President, independently of the way as the society perceives the issue of gender, the woman has a structural role in the minds of the new generations. Guarantying the full enjoyment of human rights in the area of the gender constitutes, therefore, a guarantee for the sustainability of the respect of human rights, condition for the peace and development.

We strongly believe that full respect of human rights is very important for the eradication of poverty and for the attainment of sustained social and economic development. The existence of economic inequalities constitutes a serious threat to peace and security. It is therefore a collective responsibility of all member States to work towards the elimination of such inequalities and imbalances.

In this regard, Mozambican social and economic development Program gives high priority to the elimination of such inequalities and imbalances, in a program, which focuses on the reduction of poverty through the promotion of a comprehensive and sustained economic growth.

**Mr. President**

Finally, I would like to pledge for the continuous support of the government of Mozambique to work with the United Nations and the new Council for Human Rights in the fulfilment of the objectives set forth and enshrined in the UN Charter.

I thank you.