



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC

**Speech by Hon. Eduardo Mulémbwè, Head of Delegation of
Mozambique, on the occasion of the 145th IPU Assembly**

Kigali, 11 - 15 October 2022

**Mr. President of the IPU,
Mr./Madam President of the Assembly,
Honourable Speakers here present,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellencies,

Equality between women and men is a human rights issue and a condition of social justice, and a necessary and fundamental requirement for development and peace, as well as for the permanent peace keeping. Gender equality requires that in a society, men and women enjoy the same opportunities, income, rights and obligations in all areas. They should enjoy the same conditions in access to education; in opportunities at work and in their careers; in access to health care; in access to power and influence, among others.

Excellencies,

Gender equality, by its structural but not necessarily intrinsic nature, is an enabler of equalities at all other levels. Social and political roles of inequality perpetuate cycles of poverty and scenarios of violence that could be, and are, preventable.

Here legislation, parliaments, civil society and other stakeholders play a crucial role.

Empowerment aims at balancing power between men and women by creating conditions for women to be autonomous in their decisions and in how they manage their lives.

Improving sexual and reproductive health and education is vital to alleviating poverty and improving the lives of the people in families. There is a direct relationship between women's health, their empowerment, the level of education, and the living conditions of their families.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my country, Mozambique, the Constitution of the Republic enshrines the equality of all people before the law, regardless of their color, race, sex, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, level of education, social position, marital status, profession, and political option.

Gender equality is, in this way, a matter that covers all the people of the Country, namely, women and men, so that they may dedicate themselves to the realization of the designs of a true quality of life in the context of the human development of all citizens.

Excellencies,

The vast and advanced legal-normative framework in the Republic of Mozambique and its adherence to various regional and international instruments concerning gender equality demonstrate the serious concern of the State and society regarding the persistence of inequalities between men and women in Mozambique.

It also reinforces the understanding of the genuine concern of the State with the achievement of effective gender equality in the country the fact that Mozambique has created the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Affairs, at government level, and the Parliamentary Women's Caucus, at the parliament level, and also for being signatory of different legal instruments, both regional and international, resulting from its ratification and consequent reception in the national legal order, (namely: the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by the Mozambican government in 1993; the Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa, ratified in 1994; the Beijing Declaration, ratified in 1995; the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, ratified in 1997; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Rights of Women in Africa adopted in 2003; and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, adopted in 2008,) of several legal instruments.

In order to embody the above mentioned instruments and to guarantee its operationalization, the Government adopted through Resolution n° 19/2007, of May 15th, of the Council of Ministers, the Gender Policy and its Implementation Strategy, which establishes guidelines with the purpose of allowing the decision-making and identification of actions for the elevation of the status of women and gender equality.

After a decade in force, progress has been made, highlighting the increase of the proportion of women in decision-making bodies, the reform of legislation on women's rights, the increase of girls' school attendance and retention, the improvement of access to health care, and the assistance to victims of gender-based violence.

Today, we have concrete results in the inclusion of women in decision-making bodies. Out of a total of 22 Ministers that make up the Cabinet of Mozambique, the presence of women has increased from 10 women (45%) at the beginning of the current mandate (January 2020) to 11, representing 50% as of March 2022.

With this achievement, Mozambique has reached, at Government level, the gender parity goal (50-50), which places the country in the list of 14 countries in the world that have already achieved this goal, being the third in Africa.

This represents a significant advance in the long march of gender promotion, and it is a historical milestone and very encouraging for women.

It is worth to add that we also count on the leadership of women in other several Organs such as the Parliament, the Constitutional Council, the Administrative Court, the Office of the Attorney General, among others.

This reflects the efforts made by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, two words, both of gratitude:

First, an acknowledged thank you to each of you, to each of the countries you represent, in short, to the planetary community for your unconditional and total support for the candidacy of Mozambique as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council. From next year, and throughout the biennium 2023-2024, Mozambique, with its experience, will provide its contribution to world security and peace.

Secondly, MURAKOZE to this great Rwandan nation for the excellent and, therefore, memorable welcome given to the distinguished participants in this 145th IPU General Assembly and, regarding, particularly, my country for Rwanda allowing its sons, undergoing several sacrifices, to join our Defence and Security Forces and the SADC contingent in the fight against terrorism in some districts of Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula provinces, all in the northern region.

Murakoze chani:

- His Excellency Paul Kagame, Distinguished President of the Republic of Rwanda and a beloved son of Mother Africa;
- Parliament, Government and other relevant public and private institutions of the Country;
- Great and brotherly people of Rwanda.

I extend this sincere and grateful thanks to SADC and all the countries worldwide that directly or indirectly are contributing to the re-establishment of stability in the areas once occupied by terrorists.

I thank you for your kind attention!