



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC

**Intervention by Her Excellency, Esperança
Laurinda Nhiuane Bias, Speaker of the Assembly
of the Republic on the occasion of the 13th
Women Speakers Summit**

(Virtual Meeting, 17 and 18 August 2020)

**Her Excellency
Gabriela Cuevas Barron
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,**

Honourable Speakers of Parliaments,

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I feel honoured, since this is my first time addressing the Women Speakers Summit.

The theme proposed for this Summit, "**Women's Parliamentary Leadership in a Time of COVID-19 and Recovery**", has a singular significance for the world, at a time we are facing the harmful impact of the Pandemic of the new Coronavirus.

We, women parliamentarians, must, through concrete legislative proposals, ensure the adoption of measures to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 and stimulate the rapid recovery of our economies.

Excellencies,

I proposed to make some remarks on the theme "**Stepping up women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion**".

Women, despite the progress made since the adoption of the *United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, still face major challenges.

The prevalence of discrimination and exclusion of women is particularly stressed when related to their access to the economic field. Women continue facing great difficulties in ownership and inheritance rights, access to land, credit, agricultural instruments and services and in decision-making positions in economic and financial institutions.

Our focus, as legislators, should be on creating conditions for the effective implementation of international, regional and national instruments aiming to eliminate all forms of discrimination, harmful social practices, violence and barriers to access to health and quality education for women and girls.

We should take a leading role in ensuring that our governments define policies and strategies to enable women to enjoy their political, economic and social rights.

Excellencies,

Let me say that in the Republic of Mozambique, men and women are equal before the law.

Many of the women's empowerment actions carried out by the Government of Mozambique fall within the framework of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

As a result of these actions by our Government, we now have a significant number of women in management and leadership positions, in Government and Parliament.

We have been carrying out actions for the empowerment of rural women, by promoting initiatives that enable their

integration into the productive sector, since women should be at the forefront of fighting hunger and poverty.

We also have to highlight the creation of institutional mechanisms and instruments promoting the advancement of women status towards social justice.

Regarding the empowerment of women, we have also developed a number of programmatic actions in the economic and socio-cultural areas, namely:

- Promotion of micro-credit to finance income generation and self-employment projects;
- Pilot programme to promote the use of information and communication technologies in rural areas;
- Education and literacy for women and girls aiming to reduce gender gaps.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Mozambique to continue working towards women's empowerment and development.

Thank You!