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AS WRITTEN

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
MOZAMBIQUE
BY: H. E. DR. PASCOAL MARUEL MOCUMBI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

CAIRO
SEPTEMBER 5-13,1994.

MR. CHAIRMAN

HONORABLE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

YOUR EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME FIRST OF ALL EXTEND TO HIS EXCELLENCE PRESIDENT MUBARAK OUR
CONGRATULATIONS FOR HIS ELECTION TO CHAIR THE ICPD. OUR
APPRECIATION IS EXTENSIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF EGYPT
WHOSE TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY WE ARE ENJOYING SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN
THIS HISTORIC CITY OF CAIRO.

TO THE ORGANIZERS AND IN PARTICULAR TO DR. NAFIS SADIK WE PAY A SPECIAL
TRIBUTE FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORT IN PREPARING THIS MEETING.

MR CHAIRMAN LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE

PROCESS OF PREPARATIONS THAT PRECEDED THIS CONFERENCE, SPECIALLY THE DEBATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION. IN THIS SPIRIT WE ATTENDED THE DAKAR CONFERENCE LAST DECEMBER AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL. THE DAKAR CONFERENCE WAS VERY USEFUL FOR IT PROVIDED US WITH AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY OUR COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KILIMANJARO PROGRAMME OF ACTION ADOPTED EARLIER IN 1984.

THE MEETING STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR THE FORMULATION OF POPULATION POLICIES WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES AND TRADITIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND, MORE THAN THIS, THE NEED TO INCORPORATE SUCH POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL SECTORS IN VIEW OF THEIR POTENTIAL INFLUENCE ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND ON ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR OF THE PEOPLE.

IN THE SAME WAY, WE TOOK PART IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THIS YEAR IN NEW YORK, WHICH WAS ESSENTIAL FOR IT ALLOWED THE IDENTIFICATION OF BASIS FOR CONSENSUS.

AT THE SUBREGIONAL LEVEL, WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS LAST MONTH IN MAPUTO ON THE OUTSTANDING ITEMS TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE CONFERENCE. THESE EXERCISE ENDED WITH THE HARMONIZATION OF OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, METHODS OF FAMILY PLANNING, SEXUAL ABUSE AND FEMALE MUTILATION, SPACING OF CHILD BIRTH, ABORTION AND SEXUAL EDUCATION.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ON MATTERS SUCH AS, THE RELATIONSHIP AND INTERDEPENDENCY BETWEEN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL PHENOMENA.

THE DEBATE ON POPULATION ISSUES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT IS BUILDING MOMENTUM IN MY COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE AWARENESS OF ITS IMPORTANCE VIS-À-VIS THE DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES IN THE COUNTRY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. WITH REGARD TO COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE POPULATION STATISTICAL DATA, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE IN IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY AND TERRITORIAL COVERAGE, AND IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEMOGRAPHIC PHENOMENA, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PROCESSES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF USING THE DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES WHEN CONSIDERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IS BECOMING A COMMON FEATURE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

THE POPULATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ESTIMATED AT 16 MILLION, NOW GROWS AT A RATE OF 2.78. THIS RATE IS WELL ABOVE THAT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND IS MAINLY CONCENTRATED WITHIN THE POOR POPULATION LAYERS, WHERE THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES HAS

NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE.

MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS GENERATED BY POPULATION GROWTH, ITS PRESSURE OVER RESOURCES, SPECIALLY, THE IMPLICATIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT IN MOZAMBIQUE THIS GROWTH IS LIKELY TO INCREASE RAPIDLY IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD, AS RESULT OF NORMALIZATION OF LIFE AND CONSEQUENT DECREASE IN INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY.

THE POPULATION INCREASE AND ITS YOUTHFULNESS CONSTITUTE A GREAT CHALLENGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE JOBS, ON ONE HAND, AND TO MEET THE EVER INCREASING RESOURCE DEMANDS, ON THE OTHER.

IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEMS, GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN INCORPORATING DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

IT IS OUR BELIEVE THAT THE ADOPTION OF SUCH APPROACH WILL HELP THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO RESPOND ACCORDINGLY THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT SEGMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY. THE POPULATION POLICY TO BE EFFECTIVE WILL HAVE TO TARE INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL REALITIES AND TRADITIONS, AS STIPULATED IN DAKAR REGIONAL MEETING.

CURRENTLY, MY GOVERNMENT IS CONCENTRATING ITS ATTENTION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF PRIORITY:

- MOTHER-CHILD HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING;
- THE INTRODUCTION OF SUBJECTS DEALING WITH POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING IN THE CURRICULA OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM;
- THE INTRODUCTION OF DEMOGRAPHY IN TRAINING COURSES FOR GEOGRAPHERS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND ECONOMISTS; AND,
- THE IMPROVEMENT OF WOMEN'S STATUS.

MR. CHAIRMAN

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IN MY COUNTRY THE WAR OF DESTABILIZATION IMPOSED ON US BY THE APARTHEID REGIME, PRECLUDED MY GOVERNMENT FROM IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS THAT COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING. THE WAR LEFT THE COUNTRY WITH ALL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURES VIRTUALLY DESTROYED, AND ITS SOCIAL FABRIC COMPLETELY DISRUPTED, THUS WEAKENING ITS CAPACITY TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO BASIC PROBLEMS RELATED TO POPULATION.

FORTUNATELY, THE CEASE FIRE IS HOLDING SINCE THE GENERAL PEACE

AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED TWO YEARS AGO IN OCTOBER 4, 1992. THE AGREEMENT IS A CULMINATION OF OUR STRONG RESOLVE TO FIND APPROPRIATE MEANS TO HALT THE WIDESPREAD SUFFERING OF OUR PEOPLE

THE PEACE AGREEMENT BROUGHT ABOUT NECESSARY CONDITIONS TO INITIATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WERE ABLE TO LAUNCH A MAJOR REPATRIATION PROGRAMME FOR MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE SOUGHT SANCTUARY IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. SO FAR, MORE THAN A HALF OF THE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RESETTLED IN THE AREAS OF THEIR CHOICE OR ORIGIN.

MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT, WITH ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IS PRESENTLY CARRYING ON REINTEGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS. THIS TASK HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR THE GOVERNMENT DUE TO THE STILL WEAK ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING EFFORTS ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POPULATION STANDARD OF LIVING THROUGH A SET OF DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION, THE TRIENNIAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PLAN.

FORWARD FOR A LASTING PEACE AND STABILITY, WHERE NATIONAL UNITY WILL BE PRESERVED AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF OUR COUNTRY IN THIS RESPECT, MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL PEACE AGREEMENT AND THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS NEXT OCTOBER 27 AND 28.

MR. CHAIRMAN
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

WE ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT GLOBAL POPULATION POLICY FRAMEWORK SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO MECHANISMS OF BIRTH CONTROL, BUT IT MUST ALSO EMBRACE ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS AND TO THEIR IMPACT ON THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE POPULATION AND TO ENVIRONMENT IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. POPULATION ISSUES CANNOT BE ADDRESSED IN ISOLATION, THEY MUST FIT IN THE OVERALL EFFORTS TO RID COUNTRIES OF POVERTY AND TO PROMOTE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

THIS APPROACH ALSO SHOULD ADDRESS THE FACT THAT IN MANY CASES, ECONOMIC GROWTH BENEFITS MUCH MORE THE URBAN AND RURAL FORMAL SECTOR, IN DETRIMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED SECTORS WHICH REMAIN MARGINALIZED.

IT SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE THE NEED OF SUPPLEMENTARY EFFORTS TO RAISE FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VULNERABLE SOCIAL LAYERS.

I BEG YOUR INDULGENCE FOR WHAT I AM GOING TO SAY: WOMEN AT THE "SOUTH" OF HUMANKIND, BECAUSE THEY ARE UNDER-PRIVILEGED.

PARADOXICALLY, WOMEN ARE THE BEST POSITIONED GROUP TO TRANSIT NEW VALUES AND ATTITUDES TO ALL OF US. THEY ARE THE SUPPORTERS OF THE FAMILY, THE FIRST EDUCATORS AND TEACHERS OF ALL OF US. IF WE CAN SUCCEED IN CHANGING OUR ATTITUDES REGARDING THE ROLE OF WOMEN ON POPULATION ISSUES SUCH AS FAMILY PLANNING AND EDUCATION AND MANY OTHERS WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE SAME ATTITUDES WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS. STATISTICAL DATA INDICATED THAT EDUCATED WOMEN TEND TO HAVE FEWER CHILDREN, THAN THOSE THAT ARE NOT EDUCATED. STUDIES CONDUCTED IN MY COUNTRY SHOW THAT FERTILITY AMONG ILL-TREATED IS TWICE HIGHER THAN AMONG EDUCATED WOMEN.

MR. CHAIRMAN

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I WOULD LIKE NOW TO TURN MY ATTENTION TO CHALLENGES BEFORE US FROM AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE. AFRICA AS YOU ALL KNOW IS STILL STRUGGLING WITH ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. SO, MANY ADVERSE FACTORS, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, ARE SLOWING DOWN ITS PACE. CULTURALLY, HOWEVER, WE CAN CLAIM OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE CONCERT OF NATIONS. I AM NOT SPEAKING OF PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE, MUSIC AND DANCE AND MANY OTHERS THAT PROJECT OUR CONTINENT BEYOND OUR BORDERS. I AM SPEAKING OF VALUES. THE WAY WE PERCEIVE OURSELVES AND THOSE AROUND US, THE WAY WE CONCEPTUALIZE AND CATEGORIZE REALITY, THE MEANING WE ATTACH OUR FAMILIES, TO PROPERTY, TO MATERIAL PRODUCTION, ETC.

THIS IS PART OF OUR REALITY. ANY POPULATION PROGRAMME DIRECTED TO OUR COUNTRIES CAN ONLY SURVIVE IN SO FAR AS IT CAN BE MADE RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL TO THE PEOPLE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO IN THE RURAL AREAS. I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT IN AN AFRICAN FAMILY WE DON'T COUNT THE NUMBER OF OUR FAMILY AGGREGATE. IF THERE IS FOOD SHORTAGE, IF THE CROP IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ALL WE DON'T LOOK TO THE SIZE OF OUR FAMILY AS THE CAUSE, A POSSIBLE WAY OF REASONING MIGHT BE: WE DIDN'T TILL ENOUGH LAND, MAY BE THE RAIN CAME A LITTLE LATER OR DIDN'T COME AT ALL, MAY BE THERE WAS A PLAGUE THAT DESTROYED THE CROPS, THE SALARY IS LOW AND SO FROTHY.

AN EFFECTIVE GLOBAL POPULATION POLICY SHOULD ALSO AIM AT PROMOTING APPROPRIATE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATE MECHANISMS OF TRANSMISSION OF POVERTY FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

IT BECOMES NECESSARY THAT STATES STRENGTHEN THEIR COORDINATION TO FACE THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION GROWTH HAS A GLOBAL PHENOMENA.

THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION GROWTH ARE COMPLEX AND THEIR IMPACT ARE GLOBAL. DESPITE THE FACT THAT MAJOR RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH CAN BE FOUND IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SUITABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROBLEM REQUIRE THE COOPERATION OF ALL STATES.

I BELIEVE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE ARE TASKED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION. HOWEVER, ITS IMPLEMENTATION WILL REQUIRE EFFECTIVE INTERACTION AND COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DONORS, MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS NGO'S.

IN EACH COUNTRY DECISION MAKERS HAVE TO TARE INTO CONSIDERATION REALITIES SUCH AS THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL BELIEVES AS WELL AS THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMING UP, MR. PRESIDENT, MOZAMBIQUE CONSIDERS THAT THE DRAFT "PLAN OF ACTION" THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING IS A GOOD BASIS FOR A CONSENSUS WHICH WILL SERVE AS GLOBAL REFERENCE FOR THE COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL POLICIES IN ADDRESSING POPULATION DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT IN THIS CAIRO ICPD DIALOGUE AND TOLERANCE WILL PREVAIL AS WE ARE ALL COMMITTED TO BUILD A GLOBAL SOCIETY.

IT IS WITH THAT SPIRIT THAT YOU CAN BE ASSURED OF OUR FULL COOPERATION FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE.

THANK YOU.

For further information, please contact: popin@undp.org
POPIN Gopher site: [gopher://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin](http://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin)
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