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REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Frances Rodrigues,

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to UNIDO

13th General Conference of UNIDO

Vienna, 9th December 2009

Mr. President,

Director General of UNIDO,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my delegations' warmest congratulations to you upon your election to preside over this 13th General Conference of UNIDO.

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique I convey our warmest congratulations to Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of UNIDO upon his reelection for a new mandate.

The Director General unanimous reelection reflects the deserved confidence bestowed upon him by the member States. It is also an expression of recognition of his strategic vision and the new dynamism introduced in the work of the organization.

Mozambique attaches great importance to the activities developed by UNIDO.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statement made by Angola on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

Sustainable industrial infrastructure development is vital for our process of economic development and progress. Countries such as Mozambique, a least

developed one, encounter seemingly insurmountable challenges as they strive to bring about national development.

I wish to seize this opportunity to reiterate my Government appreciation of the assistance UNIDO has been extending to Mozambique that among others includes areas such as poverty reduction, training, trade, energy and environment.

The impact of this cooperation is focalized on poverty reduction through the improvement of product competitiveness, promotion of self-employment, of easily accessible technologies for the development of agro-industries, and for small and medium enterprises to flourish.

As pilot country in the framework of ONE UN Program, we also appreciate the involvement of UNIDO in the areas of promoting women empowerment and youth job creation. The global outcome of this collaboration has been generating positive results in our quest to meet the Millenniums Development Goals.

As one of the organizations involved with the implementation of the Aid for Trade Enhanced Integrated Framework and under the “UN Delivering as One”, we look forward for a strong role of UNIDO in mobilizing the necessary resources and ensure technologies transfer for our sustainable development.

The mandate of UNIDO and its role as a global forum and an effective provider of technical cooperation services, becomes increasingly crucial at this stage in the light of the complex challenges facing the international community.

In this context, it becomes incumbent upon us to put forward capacity building initiatives and programs with emphasis in environment industries.

Technical assistance, capacity building and technology transfer are of the utmost importance if we are to boost the agriculture sector based on green industries.

Mr. President,

The current economic and financial crisis imposed unexpected constrains for our countries economic development. The impact in Mozambique is sever because of the vulnerability of its small size economy, the high levels of poverty and the dependence on external markets - both as sources of key imports and as buyers for exports – and on foreign aid. Indeed Mozambique economic growth rate slugged and slowed down from 6.7% in 2008. We expect a further fall this year to 6.1%. Happily, growth should pick up again in 2010 with a rate of 6.3%.

The Government created a High Level Task Force in charge of the permanent evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the crisis with a view to propose pertinent adjustments for the mitigation of the shocks caused by the crisis. National strategies around medium term were aligned to keep the level of economic growth in order to achieve the goal of reducing poverty from 54% of the population in 2003 to 45% by the end of this year.

Nevertheless, the country still suffers from the negative external effects of the crisis. Some of the development projects were delayed or canceled due to the sudden scarcity in the flows of international private capital.

Mr. President,

The 13th General Conference of UNIDO takes place at a time the country has just held its 4th General elections in an atmosphere of transparency, peace and order. The elections were declared free and fair, a development that contributes considerably to the consolidation of political and social stability, an essential element for the continuation of the steady economy development that Mozambique enjoys currently.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Mozambique's appreciation to UNIDO and express our willing to see the strengthening of our mutual collaboration.

I thank you all for your attention!