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REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BEFORE THE SECOND COMMITTEE
(ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL)

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 19 (c):
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 04, 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Mozambique align itself with the statement made by the distinguished representatives of Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and of Ethiopia, on behalf of the African Group, and wish to add the following national perspectives on the points of view of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Mozambique attaches great importance to the debate on natural disasters, given their negative impact particularly to the economies of fragile states. Therefore we recognize that preventing and mitigating their effects pose greater challenges to our countries, as they condition or delay the efforts to deploy resources to attain sustainable development.

Therefore, we commend the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which among others illustrates the enormous losses caused by natural disasters and referred to the need for greater investment in measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of these phenomena.

We also welcome the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan, in 2015, as decided by the General Assembly Resolution 67/209. This event is of particular importance as in addition to assessing the ongoing efforts, will adopt the framework for natural disasters in the post-2015 context. We believe that the preparations for the conference should be inclusive and take into account the concerns of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

Mozambique's geographical location makes it particularly vulnerable. It has frequently had tropical cyclones, floods and drought making many communities particularly vulnerable and causing great detriment to the economy.

Natural disasters pose a threat to the national sustainable development programmes and poverty reduction efforts and remain one of the serious obstacles to the achievement of the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) in Mozambique.
To address this challenge, Mozambique approved, in 2006, a Master Plan of Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters focused on prevention as the strategy for disaster management and vulnerability reduction.

As part of this strategy:

- The National Institute for Disaster Management was re-structured.
- The United Nations agencies and civil society became deeply involved;
- The National Emergency Operating Center, whose role is monitoring and data collection of risk information was established;
- Local committees of natural risk disasters aimed at disseminating appropriate technologies for arid and semi-arid zones were also established.

The preparedness measures being implemented on the national level and short and long term for adaptation focused on the disaster reduction such as:

- Simulation exercises focusing on floods and cyclones;
- Contingency Plan Elaboration, involving key stakeholders/partners;
- Government funds approval;
- Mapping and prepositioning of human and material resources;
- Activation of the Early Warning System;
- Active involvement of the humanitarian team; and
- Resource mobilization.

The main challenges are as follows:

- Municipality capacity building;
- Timely access to the financial resources;
- Pursue Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) as a combination approach;
- Invest in long-term human capacity building and associated staffing;
- Collaboration and involvement with private sector to take advantages of communications technology;
- Explore approaches beyond the natural hazards to include the range of environmental and technological hazards.
Mr. Chairman,

As natural disasters affect all humanity, it requires a collective strategy for the prevention and mitigation of its negative impact. It is on this basis that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) defined the environment as one of the three pillars of sustainable development.

The collective actions to address the natural disasters should, among others, be supported by the strengthening of the partnership, strengthening South-South cooperation and regional cooperation.

Mozambique remains committed to the efforts of the international communities in seeking a comprehensive platform for creating conditions for a sustainable environment, to contribute to the development and welfare of humanity.

I thank you!