STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. HENRIQUE BANZE
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

BEFORE THE THIRD COMMITTEE
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 65 (a)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILDREN

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 17, 2013
Mr Chairman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time in this session, allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the Third Committee. We are confident that under your leadership our work will be crowned with success. We assure you the full cooperation of Mozambique.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Malawi, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives on Violence against Children and for the Children and Armed Conflict, respectively, for the comprehensive reports that give an important overview of the progress made in the implementation of commitments made on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

Mr Chairman,

Our children are the hope of our future. As such, the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols merits the attention of governments, national stakeholders and international partners.

As part of our commitment to promote and protect the rights of the child, Mozambique has ratified the Convention in 1994 and acceded to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, legal international instruments that have reinforced our national legislation and administrative measures to ensure that all children are born and raised in a safe environment.

In fact, the National Poverty Reduction Action Plan (PARP) includes objectives and priorities with direct impact in the well-being of the most vulnerable Mozambicans, including children and women, by addressing in a more integrated manner the challenges in areas such as health, education, sanitation, housing and food security. As a result, there has been a
significant improvement in the access to health and sanitation, primary education and nutrition among children.

Our commitment to better address the needs of children also includes the improvement of social protection measures to the most vulnerable children - such as abandoned children, children living in absolute poverty, children victim of abuse and violence, orphans, disabled children and children suffering from chronic illnesses.

In addition, the adoption of the *National Plan of Action for the Child* (2013-2019) and the *Action Plan for Orphaned Children*, improved our efforts for a more coherent multi-sectorial planning approach to children’s needs, by reinforcing partnerships between Government, civil society, development and multilateral partners, private sector, other relevant stakeholders and the children in the fulfilment of our common goals.

**Mr Chairman,**

We believe that when equipped with the right tools, children can contribute for a better understanding of their needs and expectations and come up with solutions to the challenges they face. In this regard, initiatives such as *Children Parliament* and *Generation Biz* on sexual reproductive health have been part of Mozambique’s efforts to grant children and adolescents the freedom of expression and association, fundamental rights that are enshrined in the national Constitution.

In addition, Children Parliament is a relevant instrument to forge conscientious citizens aware of their rights and obligations to build the nation. Indeed it has contributed for national unity as it brings together children from different social backgrounds, creeds and ethnic groups. It also constitutes an opportunity for children to engage directly with Government and members of Parliament on governance issues related to their rights, thus constituting a barometer of government achievements in this domain.
Mr Chairman,

Despite the progress made on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, a lot remains to be done to ensure that our children fully enjoy their rights. Therefore, we welcome the recommendations contained in the reports before us, as they will contribute to reinforce the ongoing measures to:

✓ Build national institutional capacities to better integrate child rights into national planning;

✓ Respond to the high burden of HIV and AIDS and Malaria, one of the major threats to social and economic development, with great impact on child’s rights;

✓ Ensure the adequate financing for the programs and priorities with direct impact in the well-being of the child; and

✓ Strengthen partnerships at national, regional, and international levels.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude my remarks by reiterating the commitments of Mozambique to implement the existing legal instruments adopted on the promotion and protection of the rights of children. For this aim, Mozambique, counts obviously with the assistance of all of its partners, including the United Nations System.

I thank you!