STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. ANTÓNIO GUMENDE,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BEFORE THE SECOND COMMITTEE
(ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL)

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 25:
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, FOOD SECURITY
AND NUTRITION

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 28, 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Mozambique wishes to align itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the statement made by Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report on agriculture development, food security and nutrition as well as for the report on the main decisions and recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security. In this regard, we welcome the regional and international efforts highlighted by the report aimed at a sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Indeed it is increasingly important to boost agriculture technological means in the context of a growing international partnership, contributing to accelerate the eradication of hunger and poverty in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Food security has been one of the priority issues of our national and indeed of the international agenda, within the framework of the efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as outlined in the First Goal – Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger by 2015.

To achieve these objectives, Mozambique seeks to promote rapid, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth. Critical for the development of the
The agricultural sector is the development of basic infrastructure and the creation of employment opportunities.

The main challenges are:

- to strengthen Food Security and Nutritional Governance to ensure strong and holistic multi-sectorial coordination and expansion of key interventions;
- agrarian research to improve the quality of seeds;
- improve the access to water and management for irrigation and consumption; and
- improve food storage, consumption and market to improve the food security and nutrition, income generation and improve the livelihood conditions of the whole population, particularly in remote rural areas.

To address these challenges, Mozambique has adopted policies, strategies and programmes aiming at improving the performance of the agricultural sector to ensure access to adequate nutrition for the entire population, income generation, and reducing chronic food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly, of the vulnerable groups such as children under five, adolescents and women. In this regard, our efforts are being framed by the Strategic Plan for Development of Agrarian Sector (PEDSA) 2011-2020, representing, also, our response to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

The strategy focuses on an integrated approach scheme to strengthen food production through investments in infrastructure and equipment, research, technology transfer to communities, among other measures.
Since its adoption, PEDSA enabled the country to achieve encouraging results, particularly in food production, with an average growth of 6% to 7% in 2011/2012 and 2012/13. In the same period, the country achieved surpluses in maize, cassava and beans.

Under the CAADP, Mozambique also approved the National Plan for Agricultural Sector Investment (PNISA), a tool that seeks to identify and prioritize key investment and policy interventions that are critical to enhancing the desired agricultural productivity growth in Mozambique. To this end, the CAADP framework is used to facilitate the achievement of an annual agricultural growth rate of at least 6% in Mozambique triggered by an annual allocation of at least 10% of the national budget.

This set of policies aims to meet the objectives and targets outlined in the Strategy and Plan of Action for Nutrition and Food and Nutritional Security and is part of the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the progressive realization of right to adequate food.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite these positive developments, Mozambique still faces chronic malnutrition, affecting 43 per cent of children under 5 years.

In this regard, we attach special importance to initiatives designed to encourage the promotion of policies for the reduction of hunger and malnutrition in the world.
We are encouraged by the Scaling Up Nutrition initiative of the United Nations Secretary General, launched in 2010, to which H. E. Armando Emílio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique, is a member of the leader group of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement.

As highlighted by the high-level meeting of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, held in September 2013, the strengthening of policy framework and mobilization of additional financial resources for the improvement of nutrition is of capital importance.

We would like to reiterate the call made to encourage the involvement of women, youth and local communities in the implementation of actions related to nutrition.

At the eve of the set date deadline to achieve the MDGs, the Portuguese speaking countries benefit for the push to attain the MDG 1 provided by the decision of the 9th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), held in Maputo, on 20 July 2012, under the theme "The CPLP and the Challenges of Food and Nutrition Security". The Conference reaffirmed, inter alia, the commitment to strengthening the human right to adequate food in national and communitarian policies, as well as the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty in the CPLP. To This end, member States express their commitment to boost partnerships.
Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude my remarks by stressing that, within the framework of the Millennium development goals and in the context of Development Agenda beyond 2015, it is appropriate to strengthen efforts of the international community and adopt critical mechanisms with a view to eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

I thank you!