



MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION AFFAIRS

**HER EXCELLENCY DR ALCINDA ANTONIO DE ABREU SPEACH
ON THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT ON
BIODIVERSITY**

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honor for us as a Party to the Biological Diversity Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety to participate in this high level meeting of the General Assembly to celebrate the International Year of Biological Diversity under the theme "Biodiversity is Life. Biodiversity is our life. We are paying tribute to the role that biodiversity plays in our lives and ecosystems health.

We are not here only to reflect on the causes of the continuing loss of species and habitat degradation in our countries, regions and the entire world, but it is indeed an opportunity to reflect and debate on the future of biodiversity in order to avoid repetition of failures to fully comply with the goals agreed upon at the Summit in Johannesburg in 2002.

Mozambique is a country rich in biological diversity. We have an extensive coastline of more than 2700 km; about 70% of the country consists of forests and other vegetation being 16% protected areas with a variety of animal and plant species of great importance to ecosystems and the local communities.

The Human pressures on biodiversity in finding resources for their livelihoods and the impacts of climate change results in ecosystems degradation and biodiversity loss. Recognizing this reality, we reinforced Environmental Education Programs to develop environmental awareness about the key environmental problems that adversely affect biodiversity, such as uncontrolled fires, poor sanitation, soil erosion, informal settlements among others. We are disseminating good practices in environmental management

at all levels targeting to cover about 1500 local communities until 2014.

Additionally, the Government of Mozambique is integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable management into national policy and legislation and development programs and strategies and most notably is the National Policy for Conservation and the Strategy of Gender, Environment and Climate Change adopted this year.

However, we are facing financial, institutional and technology constraint to effectively implement the above mentioned programs that contribute to environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.

We hope that at COP 10 decisions are reached to help the developing countries, particularly the least developed to better implement their programs for poverty reduction through sustainable use of biodiversity resources and sharing of its benefits integrating gender mainstreaming, natural resources management and climate change adaptation and mitigation programs to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Mozambique is in line with the Libreville Declaration on Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation in Africa and we expect that in Nagoya we adopt a single comprehensive legally binding regime on access and benefit sharing that covers the biological and genetic resources and their derivatives and products. We reiterate our commitment to the African Common Position on the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit sharing adopted at 13th Session of African Ministerial Conference on Environment, held in June in Bamako.

Thank you for your attention