

## **Speech by H.E. Eduardo Mulembwe, the Head of Delegation of Mozambique**

**Mr/Madam President of the General Assembly,**

**Excellencies,**

The worsening of climate change and environmental risks warn us of the need to promote a Development with globally sustainable ecological footprints, protecting the planet, the species that inhabit it, as well as the future of Humanity. This situation requires urgent, energetic, coordinated and solidarity-based action from the international community, with focus on support to the developing countries, aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting the transition to increasingly sustainable energy, industrial, economic and social models.

**Excellencies,**

Climate action is, therefore, closely linked to a development that bridges its social, economic and environmental dimensions as consistently as possible. The aspects listed above lead us to reflect on the following points:

- Have environmental and/or climate policies taken into account the challenges of development and the " green " strategies that consider their impacts on a global scale, especially on the legitimate aspirations of the poorest to a dignified life, in more than urgent pursuit of an agreed action in the concert of Nations?
- Are the developing countries, the real victims, being properly supported in this endeavour?

**Excellencies,**

Climate change is the greatest environmental threat of the 21st century. As such, it is not only an environmental problem but a global development and humanitarian emergency, particularly affecting the poorest.

In our view, the challenge of combating climate change has two main vectors: **mitigation** and **adaptation**. An effective combination of mitigation and adaptation measures can thus contribute to limiting

their impacts in the future, and design with a multiplicity of sectoral policies, from agriculture to energy, from environment to economy, from science and technology to sustainable development options at global, continental, regional, national and local levels.

The climate crisis is an opportunity for us to substantially and profoundly reassess our vision and model of development that takes into account the importance of cooperation and solidarity within and across countries.

We must also recognize that a truly responsible ecological and sociological approach cannot forget justice in climate change debates.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Development for the common good is much more than 'greening' our current mode of development to reduce its damage to the environment. Addressing the climate challenge is bound to have costs and cause disruptions. These costs must be borne fairly among nations, communities and individuals, and the disruptions mitigated and compensated in the best possible way.

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* (2015), reminds us that "Human beings, capable of touching the bottom of degradation, can also overcome themselves, choosing again the good and regenerating themselves, beyond any psychological and social conditioning."

I extend an urgent invitation for a renewed dialogue on how we are building the future of the planet. We need a debate that unites us all, because the environmental challenge we are experiencing and its human roots concern and impact on all of us.

### **Excellencies,**

Climate change and its harmful impacts are a fact; a hard reality.

Mozambique is also suffering the consequences of these climate changes. For example, in the first few months of this year, the country was hit by two cyclones, Ana and Gombe, whose direct impact is expressed by the significant loss of human lives, personal property and livelihoods, destruction of essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water supply systems, schools, hospitals and housing.

The cyclical droughts registered in some regions of our country are another clear sign of these changes.

As its contribution to combating climate change, the Mozambican parliament has passed several national legal instruments and ratified others of an international nature.

It is urgent that international agreements are complied with, given the limited capacity of local bodies to intervene efficiently and effectively.

**Excellencies,**

I strongly appeal to the Parliamentarians participating in this IPU Session, under the theme: Getting to zero, " Mobilizing Parliaments to act on climate change", to redouble our supervision to the education sector, since it is the only truly non-extinguishable resource that guarantees a sustainable environment and development. Only knowledge, accompanied by an ethical sense of our relationship with the environment, can help to guide our efforts, both now and for future generations.

**Excellencies,**

In Vienna and Madrid in 2021, and in New York last February, we shared with you about Mozambique's candidacy for Non-Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council. On those occasions we outlined the rationale for our decision and thanked the countries around the world that have already expressed support for "the Mozambique case".

Today, we simply remind you that our position remains unchanged and we are counting on you next June. Mozambique's victory will also be yours and the United Nations Security Council will certainly gain from Mozambique's experience in conflict management, which has always invested in open and permanent dialogue as the main weapon for reaching consensus for peace and harmony in the country, the region, the continent and the world.

**I thank you for your attention!**