REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
MINISTÉRIO DA TERRA E AMBIENTE

Intervention of head of delegation of Government of Mozambique on the Occasion of the tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the regional preparatory meeting for the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

"R*aising Ambition for Accelerating Action on Drought Resilience and Combating land degradation and desertification*"

Abidjan, September 6, 2024

His Excellency, President of AMCEN

His Excellency, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Ivory Coast;

Her Excellency Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);

His Excellencies Ministers of Environment and head of delegations;

Honorable, Representative of the African Union;

Honorable Members of the Secretariat of different Conventions;

Distinguished guests and all Protocol observed

On behalf of Government of Mozambique and the Her Excellency Minister of Land and Environment of Mozambique, who cannot be here due to conflicting agenda, I would like to thank to the Government of the Republic of Ivory Coast, for hosting this important session and for excellent hospitality since our arrived in this country and beautifully city of Abidjan to attend the Tenth Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the regional preparatory meeting for the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Mozambique is one of the African countries that faces several impacts on climate events, such as drought and desertification, flooding and cyclones. These climate events challenge all the effort of Mozambicans.

Nevertheless, measures are being put in place by our government at the policy level and with specific actions in ground.

At policy level, and in the implementation of international and regional commitments, the Government of Mozambique adopted several strategic instruments aiming to reduce soil degradation and combating desertification, such as:

- National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (2013-2025);
- Disaster Risk Reduction Master Plan 2017-2030;
- Drought and Diversification Strategy,
- National Disaster Risk Management Policy,
- National Reforestation Strategy,
- National Rural Water and Sanitation Program (PRONASAR)
- National Water Resources Management Strategy, and
- Policy and Strategy for the Integrated Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Zones.

Ladies and Gentlemen's,

As way to materialize the strategic objectives of the UNCCD, the Government of Mozambique has been developing several actions, just to name some:

- Strengthening the Capacities of Agricultural Producers to deal with Climate Change by Increasing Food Security;
- Forestry Investment Project in order to– Improving Climate Resilience in Mozambique;
- Implementing projects to support for the recovery of degraded areas in the country;
- Updated National Map of the Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Mozambique;
- Implemented for the first time early Actions to Prevent and Mitigate the Drought associated with the 2023/2024 El Nino, among others.

These efforts show the commitment of the Government of Mozambique and other stakeholders towards a resilient and sustainable world with a view to reducing the effects of the Climate Change on the economy, as well as in the society and making our communities more resilient and less vulnerable to climate change.

Despite significant efforts, challenges still persist, such as, lack of funds to put in place the adoption of technologies to help both local communities and the private sector to build resilient infrastructures to alleviate anger and lack of water, investment on clean energy production and forest conservation, reduce high dependence of communities on charcoal for energy. Our country face also limited technical capacity and knowledge, length and frequencies of the dry period in arid and semi-arid zones, increased forest fires and increased heavy rainfall and strong winds which contribute in increasing soil erosion and land degradation.

Dear participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen's,

Our delegation congratulates the work done by experts in preparation of this session. Therefore, we reaffirm that Mozambique is committed to endorse the draft decisions and declarations to be considered and discussed in this special session that will be part of the agenda of COP16 of UNCCD, Riyadh.

For your attention, thank you very much!

Abidjan, September 6, 2024