

Republic of Mozambique

Statement by:

H.E. John William Kachamila  
Minister For Coordination Of Environmental Affairs,  
At the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC,  
The Hague

The Hague, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2000

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me Mr. President to congratulate you for your election to this important position, as president of Sixth Conference of the parties. We hope that this conference will be successful, particularly in meeting the objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. I also express my gratitude to the Government and people of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for hosting this COP 6 and for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation since its arrival in The Hague.

Mr. President,

Mozambique, like many other African countries, is currently grappling with the challenges of development. But, the effects of climate change have added an additional burden to this overall challenge. Due its geographic position Mozambique is highly vulnerable to natural disasters caused by erratic climate. In recent years the country has seen frequent droughts, floods and cyclones which had negative impact on the country's economic and social development.

Since 1981 Mozambique has suffered three major droughts and four flood disasters. However, none of these disasters has been as destructive as the county's recent floods that occurred in February/March this year, which were accompanied by powerful cyclones named Eline and Hudah. As result of these extreme events, over 700 people were left dead and some 4 million people were directly affected.

On the environmental side we still have to identify the magnitude of the negative impacts created by this calamity.

We can however anticipate significant loss of biodiversity and an increase of soil degradation.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those countries and organizations that demonstrated their solidarity in that crucial moment. Also allow me on behalf of the Government and people of Mozambique to extend my gratitude to the Subsidiary Bodies for expressing sympathy and solidarity during its twelfth sessions in Bonn. The reconstruction program will require technical and financial resources that are beyond the country's capacity, and can only be implemented with the generous support of the international community.

Mr. President,

I hope the COP6 adopts the draft resolution on solidarity with southern African countries, particularly with Mozambique, as contained in the document FCCC/SBI/2000/5 Annex II. The deliberations at this conference must be shown through concrete action so that the disaster that befell Mozambique and other southern African countries and the extensive damage that occurred in our countries is mitigated. In order to ensure that developing countries are able to build the capacity to prevent the devastating consequences of such disasters the following issues need to be decided here at COP6: Implementation of article 4.8 and 4.9, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building and adequate funding to ensure practical implementation. This will enable developing countries, in particular the least developed countries to adequately respond to the impact of climate change.

I am sure that you will agree that the inability for these countries to adapt to climate change further contributes to poverty and increase underdevelopment. Therefore urgent assistance to adapt must be undertaken in the context of

long-term objective of sustainable development which most African countries are striving for.

The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should prevail in our negotiations. In this regard we are in favour of the urgent establishment and operation of CDM with clear rules and procedures, including agreement on complementarity and equity. We would like to see a prompt start to the CDM in 2001, and Annex I countries should provide the necessary resources to build our capacity to host CDM projects.

We call for the early entry in force of the Kyoto Protocol to coincide with the Earth Summit, which we hope will be in Africa.

Mr. President, I thank for your attention.