



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC**

**ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
MOZAMBIQUE AT THE 40TH SADC SUMMIT**

Maputo, 17 August 2020

Excellences,

Dear brothers,

Your Excellencies the Former Presidents of the Republic of Mozambique,

The Republic of Mozambique today hosts here, in Maputo, the 40th Ordinary Session of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit of Heads of State and Government, the supreme body of our regional Organisation. Allow me to, first of all, pay tribute to all fellow citizens of the SADC Region and to extend my warmest greetings on behalf of the Mozambicans.

My first welcome remarks to this august house of ours are virtual.

On behalf of Mozambicans, I thank you for the honour and confidence placed in our country to host the Summit and take on the rotational term of the chairpersonship of the Southern African Development Community, which fills us with pride and joy.

Amidst the multiple challenges facing our countries and the world at large, our region has maintained its cohesion and focus on achieving its goals. This has been due to the pragmatism and insight with which my brother, His Excellency John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, Outgoing Chairperson and President of the United Republic of Tanzania, led SADC.

Allow me to commend Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax Executive Secretary of SADC, and her Secretariat team, for all the institutional support they have provided my country, particularly in preparation for this Summit in a totally challenging context.

Your Excellencies Heads of States and Government,

Honourable Ministers and Senior Officials,

Before all of you, I accept the term of office of SADC Chairperson, which has just been bestowed upon me at this memorable 40th Ordinary Session of our Virtual Summit, with much humility, but with an extreme sense of responsibility and mission.

The Mozambican people is, by nature, resilient and hardworking, therefore, we pledge to fulfill this mission with selflessness and, to ensure its success, we count on the support of each and every Member State. We will work very closely with the Heads of State and Government and those of the Double Troika, with whom we will always conduct consultations starting immediately.

It is my duty to express here, on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Mozambique, our appreciation and extend our special salute to the founding fathers of our Organisation who, with their intelligence and extraordinary vision, contributed to our political and economic liberation. Today, in midst of a new reality, the stages of this development are clearly outlined in our compass, which is the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

Again, may I reiterate my great pleasure to welcome you virtually to this 40th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government.

We are confident that the set of decisions coming out of this Summit will propel our Organisation into new heights in the shared future of prosperity and well-being we have always fought for.

Muito obrigado!

Thank You!

Merci Beaucoup!

Assante Sana!