



Republic of Mozambique

Office of the President

Contributing to Peace, Stability and Security in SADC

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY FILIPE JACINTO NYUSI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, AT THE 18th SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN.

Maputo, 5th August 2016.

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ;

The SADC Executive Secretary;

Members of the Legislature and the Judiciary of the Republic of Mozambique;

Honourable Ministers Responsible for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs;

Honourable Members of the Cabinet of the Republic of Mozambique;

The Governor of Maputo City;

Members of the Diplomatic Corp Accredited to the Republic of Mozambique;

Distinguished Delegates;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me first of all; warmly welcome you all, our distinguished invited guests, to the Republic of Mozambique and the City of Maputo which hosts the 18th ordinary session of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ.

I wish to thank you for having readily accepted our invitation to this meeting which is aimed at reflecting on the regional political and security developments over this period when at your mandate we are coordinating activities within the framework of the SADC Organ.

Dear Delegates!

It is with renewed expectations that we join you, at this singular moment as you discharge your enormous responsibility of taking stock of our politics, defence and security cooperation.

We bestow great hopes to this gathering which will chart the way in preparing substantive matters leading to the successful holding of the forthcoming Summit in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

When in August last year, during the previous SADC Summit, Mozambique accepted for the third time the responsibility to chair the SADC Organ, we did it aware of the importance that the SADC region attaches to collective efforts and concerted actions to preserve peace, stability and security.

We accepted this responsibility a few months after taking up the destinies of the Republic of Mozambique as we knew that our SADC is regarded as one of the most promising regions in the Continent and as such it always calls its children for relevant missions.

Dear Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The visibility of the collective action of the SADC region in economic, social and political areas is a continental landmark.

Despite the recognised challenges of the full entry into force of the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, the region has managed to establish bilateral arrangements for visa waivers which allow some movement of people without major constraints.

We are now in a phase of consolidation of this Community achievement, but we should not rule out the impact of anxieties caused by the free movement of persons which may sometimes become a source of division and disintegration in other parts of the world.

Consolidation of the regional peace and security architecture is an objective deserving our permanent attention.

The challenges posed by electoral processes, the phenomenon of extremism, transnational organised crime and the growing appetite for the resources of our region, among others, require a profound and strategic debate in the Inter State Committees of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO).

This debate should also enable us to crystalize on the successes we have scored in establishing structures and models that make SADC an organisation with its own features, particularly with regards to:

Conflict mediation, prevention and preventative diplomacy;

Operationalization of the regional standby force and respective command and control structures within the framework of the African Standby Force;

Consolidation of the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre;

Improvement of the Regional Early Warning System, just to mention a few;

Esteemed Delegates!

We are aware that we are operating in an environment of resources scarcity and therefore the financial implications of this exercise should be properly pondered in the Implementation Plan.

The same should also apply with regards to the 2016-2121 Indicative Costs of Regional Cooperation on Peace and Security.

It is fundamental that in all our plans and actions we apply the principle of austerity and economies of scale.

The Organ actions should focus on the creation of a conducive environment for economic development which is the core of our SADC vision of a SHARED FUTURE of prosperity for our peoples.

Our regional interaction is founded and inspired on the values and legacy of the founding fathers of our organisation.

That is why we feel it is imperative that the dream of Hashim Mbita to document our historic trajectory should be realised.

We all have the duty to take ownership of our history so that we are not doomed to live in a perpetual identity crisis.

The Ministerial Committee of the Organ has the role of a custodian and institutional depository of the deeds of Southern African.

We should know that our freedom was not by chance it was conquered with the sacrifice and blood of the best children of our countries.

Therefore, we should continue to cherish cohesion and reject those forces trying to divide us.

Our generation has the duty to ensure that the sacrifices consented were not in vain.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As it can be noted, today we are living in a world which is characterised by fast socio-political, economic and technological transformations beyond boundaries.

SADC is not an island.

SADC belongs to a large family which is impregnated with values of solidarity and humanism which serve as a unifying factor.

The robustness and fairness of our positions in this large family make our organisation an unavoidable actor in the design of international security and development strategies.

It is in the pursuit of this quest that concerting of positions on topical continental and global issues, at large, hoists the SADC region flag higher in the concert of Nations.

In this session you will discuss, in a candid manner, the issue pertaining to gender based violence because our organisation recognises that protecting women is protecting an entire nation.

This is also an opportunity to review and project SADC actions in promoting the fundamental role that women play in the security sector and in conflict management.

We will assess the participation of women in peacekeeping operations in light of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

It is important that our region remains in the front line when it comes to countering gender based violence.

Nothing will dignify women better than empowering our mind set and attitude towards women.

In Mozambique we will remain relentless unless we make sure that women are equipped with capacity and skills that enable them to free themselves and move forward on their own merit side by side with men in the development efforts.

Holding the meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ in Maputo provides us with an opportunity to improve our regional peacekeeping model and adjust it to emerging challenges by systematising sustainable practices of early warning and peace building and management.

I would be remiss if I concluded my remarks without expressing a word of appreciation to our cooperating partners who have rendered their precious resources to build our internal capacity to preserve security, peace and political stability in our countries, in particular, and in the region, at large.

These are acts of solidarity that SADC will always appreciate.

I congratulate the Secretariat and all Troika Members and, indeed, the organisers of this event.

With wishes of a wonderful stay in Mozambique and deliberations resulting in the preservation of peace, welfare and mutual understanding cherished by SADC peoples, I declare the eighteenth session of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ officially open.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Asante sana!