



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

**Speech by Honourable Cristóvão Artur Chume,
Minister of National Defence, on the occasion of
the 2021 Seoul United Nations Peacekeeping
Ministerial**

Seoul, from 07th to 08th December 2021

Honourable Minister of National Defence of Republic of Korea

Esteemed Ministers;

Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to begin my speech by presenting compliments to everyone attending this important event which addresses matters regarding the improvement of the mechanisms for the peacekeeping operations in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Since the conquest of the National Independence, Mozambique incorporates and puts efforts for peacekeeping as key condition for the development of the nations.

In this context, in **April 1977**, the late President Samora Moisés Machel, alongside his counterparts from Angola, Agostinho Neto, from Botswana, Seretse Khama, from

Tanzania, Julius Nyerere and from Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, founded **the Frontline States**, under efforts put to stop the military destabilization actions conducted by the then **apartheid** regime and restore total freedom of the people and territories oppressed and under political, economic and social domination in the Southern Africa.

In this solidary movement in the quest for peace, the Republic of Mozambique actively participated in the Armed Struggle for the Liberation of Zimbabwe and supported the South African people in the struggle against the **apartheid** regime.

During this engagement, the Republic of Mozambique was involved in an internal military conflict for a period of 16 years, from 1976 to 1992, which only finished after the openness by the Mozambican people in engaging in a dialogue to conquer peace. For that purpose, Mozambique counted on the support from several international

partners, including the United Nations that dispatched a Peacekeeping Mission to the Country.

The 1992-1994 United Nations Mission in Mozambique, nicknamed ONUMOZ was crucial to restore peace in Mozambique.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite the armed conflicts which have been affecting our country, the commitment of the country towards worldwide, continental, regional and national peace always remained intact through a permanent engagement by the Mozambican Government and the Society aimed at achieving longstanding peace.

So, we would like to highlight the participation of Mozambique in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions with observers in the **Democratic Republic of Congo from 2003 to 2012; Republic of Sudan (Darfur) from**

2004 to 2009; South Sudan (Abiyei) from 2005 to 2008 and from 2012 to 2014.

Mozambique also participated with contingents and observers in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in the **Democratic Republic of East Timor from 1999-2005, and in the Republic of Burundi from 2003 to 2006.**

Our presence in East Timor mobilized around 27 men, from which 20 from the contingent, amongst Police and Military personnel, and 07 observers.

The participation in the pacification process in Burundi represents a more meaningful expression of the Mozambican contribute undertaken by the deployment of the Mozambique Defence Forces as External Policy instrument.

In this regard, it is important to highlight three moments that marked the involvement of Mozambique in Burundi peace mission:

- i)** Negotiation process led by Armando Emílio Guebuza, former President of the Republic of Mozambique which took place city Arusha, Tanzania, resulting in the cease fire between the belligerents;
- ii)** Integration in the African Union Peacekeeping (MIAB) operations contingent from May 2003 to May 2004, with around 409 military personnel; and
- iii)** Participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping operations contingent to Burundi (ONUB), from May 2004 to 2006, with around 360 military personnel.

At operational level, Mozambique deployed in Burundi a force of around seven hundred and seventy-nine (779) military personnel from various specialties and had specific responsibilities of ensuring humanitarian assistance, including assistance to the refugees (most of them coming from the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo) and the protection of high entities of the Mission over the period from 2003 to 2006.

Our Mission in Burundi was symbolic for the fact of being the first one under the aegis of the United Nations, in

which we participated with a significant contingent for the purpose of pacification of the country.

As result of our engagement in the Peacekeeping Missions, the Peace Support Operations Training Center, located in Moamba District was stablished under the aegis of the United Nations, in order to improve and train the Mozambique Defence Forces on Peace Support Operations with the purpose of addressing future demands of this organization. Our ambition is to turn the Peace Support Operations Training Center into a Regional Center of Excellence.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Currently, the peace in Mozambique is at stake due to the terrorist actions that have been claiming lives in Cabo

Delgado Province and have already displaced 800 thousand people.

The combat of this evil has been through an holistic approach entailing military engagement through joint operations by the Defence and Security Forces of Mozambique, SADC and Rwanda, and the resolution of social matters that pave the way for the spreading of terrorism, by promoting employment, training of young people and creation of investments initiatives within the communities of Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula provinces with the goal of discouraging the young people from joining terrorist groups. These actions are conducted under the coordination of the Northern Integrated Development Agency (ADIN) which was established for that purpose.

At the same time, and following the dialogue we had with Renamo which resulted with the signing of the Peace Agreement on the 06th August 2019, there is an ongoing process of Disarmament, Demilitarization and

Reintegration of Renamo residual forces, including those of Renamo Military Junta, a group which originated in Renamo.

Our Government continues open to receive the young people who abandon the terrorists and Renamo Military Junta and reintegrate them in the society.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The world needs to be increasingly united to solve current threats to global peace and security, either through bilateral or multilateral engagement.

Our commitment with peacekeeping matters in our country, region and the world will always be part of our priorities as country, that is why we reiterate our openness to be part of any global initiative.

We believe that we can actively continue to contribute for the global stability and the improvement of the United Nations Peace Operations Missions.

We have the advantage of having received and participated in the United Nations Peace Operations Missions, reason why we intend to share and capitalize that experience so that they become increasingly efficient and adequate to the reality on the ground.

It was under this context that on the 16th September 2021, we officially submitted our application as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council for the period of **2023-2024**, and we would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the request of support by the countries here present for that election.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Seoul, 07th December 2021