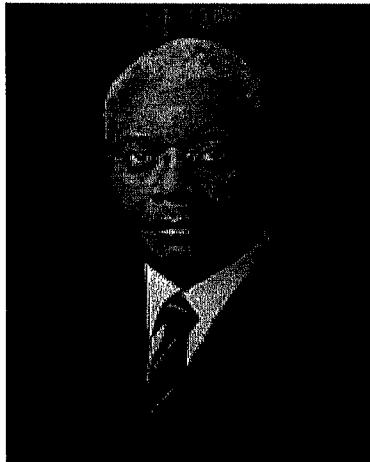


FROM HAVANA TO DOHA:

Assessing progress and impact



PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Paper presented at the Second South Summit of the G77 & China

Doha, 15 June 2005

Your Highness Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Emir of the State of Qatar,
Your Majesties,
Excellencies,
Royal Highnesses,
Your Right Honourable, Percival James Patterson, Prime Minister of
Jamaica,
Chairman of the Group of 77 and China,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow us, on behalf of the delegation of Mozambique and on our own behalf, to express our sincere appreciation to the people and Government of the State of Qatar for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha. We are also impressed with the logistics put at our disposal which will greatly facilitate our deliberations. The warmth and fraternity surrounding us bear witness to the brotherhood and solidarity that has characterized the Group of 77 and China since its inception in 1964.

The city of Doha has been associated with progress made in the process of fostering the pillars of international policies and strategies towards a fair approach to development in the context of an increasing globalization. The hosting of the World Trade Organization round of negotiations is one of such positive examples. Doha is, therefore, a reference point in our quest for recognition as important players in the efforts to build a more secure world and a truly global partnership between the South and the North.

Five years after the adoption of the Havana Plan of Action, we are meeting to take stock of the progress made. At the same time, our meeting will reflect on the first five years of implementation of the Millennium Declaration and its eight development goals, as our contribution to the forthcoming High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals was indeed a commendable landmark decision by the international community in its quest to fight poverty, accelerate human development and facilitate the gradual and effective integration of the developing world into the global economy. This commitment has been reiterated in the subsequent international conferences.

However, the results have so far fallen short of our expectations, particularly with regard to the African continent. Both the Millennium Project Report, entitled *A Practical Plan to Achieve the MDGs* and the report of the Secretary-General, entitled *In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all*, have coincided in the assessment that the existence of consensus on major international development goals has not been complemented by adequate political will by the international community to meet its share of responsibilities.

As indicated in the Report of the Secretary General, the situation in Africa is a mix of some success stories in progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and records of little improvement in poverty reduction, social development and quality of life. While developing countries, as a whole, have registered a significant reduction of the

proportion of people living in extreme poverty from 27.9%, in 1990, to 21.3%, in 2001, the sad reality is that the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in Africa actually increased from 44.6% to 46.5% in the same period. The number of people living on less than US\$ 1 a day in Africa has increased from 227 million in 1990 to 314 million in 2001. More than 160 million people still live in slum-like conditions, primary enrolment rates remain the lowest in the world, with gender disparity and an adult HIV prevalence rate that is the highest, 7.5%. Against this background, only by continuing to work together as a community of nations, including those outside our group, can we succeed in making the Millennium Development Goals a reality by 2015 in Sub-Saharan Africa. Already, national, sub-regional and regional efforts are increasingly being undertaken to implement sound economic policies, improve governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and political stability. The results attained in all these fronts are encouraging.

By the same token, we acknowledge, with appreciation, the debt cancellation decision taken by the G-8 Ministers of Finance in favour of some of our developing countries. We wish to encourage this group of nations to adopt, at their next Summit in the United Kingdom, other initiatives that will further alleviate poverty in the developing countries.

We also welcome the recent decisions made by the European Union, with respect to financing for development, trade, policy coherence and the enhanced focus on Africa. In particular, the setting up of new collective and specific targets towards the achievement of 0.56% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2010, with a view to reaching the 0.7% target by 2015, is to be commended.

We would like to encourage the developed member states of WTO to double the amount set up for a new Global Trust Fund aimed at boosting

technical assistance and helping countries with weaker capacity to improve their participation in the multilateral trading system.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Following the successful holding of the third multi-party democratic elections in Mozambique, in December 2004, we have emerged as winners, with the responsibility to lead the more than 18 million Mozambicans on the road to development. The elections were deemed peaceful, orderly and transparent by the Mozambicans themselves and by regional and international observers.

Our Government is now fully engaged in the implementation of its Five-Year Programme for 2005-2009, recently approved by Parliament. This Programme incorporates our election promises which were articulated under the banner of continuity and renewal. Continuity of the experiences and programmes initiated under the leadership of our predecessor, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, who some of you have interacted with a great deal. We have also articulated the view that through renewal we would inject new vigour and dynamism in our efforts so that, inspired by the Millennium Development Goals, we met our own challenges to eradicate absolute poverty.

Our Five Year Programme focuses on integrated rural development and on infrastructure improvement and expansion, with particular attention being paid to roads, telecommunications and power supply. Expansion of basic services such as health and education and the widening of the network of potable water facilities feature high on our agenda.

We are also committed to the promotion of sustained economic growth. In this regard, we are paying due consideration to continued improvement of the environment for investment be it for small, medium size or for mega projects. Steps are being taken to attract more private investment from the South, through bilateral, sub-regional and other development initiatives.

In the next five years we will also concentrate our attention:

- ❖ on the consolidation of national unity, peace and stability; and
- ❖ on the strengthening of international cooperation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We need to develop and further strengthen the capacity of G-77 and China to assist in establishing partnerships that will ensure that all members are integrated and benefit from the world economy. The Havana Plan of Action advances important pointers in this regard. On its turn, the Marrakesh Work Plan provides the assessment towards the establishment of a real and effective South-South Cooperation, aiming at driving forth the implementation of the Havana Plan of Action.

We are of the view that we must exploit better the existing potential in some of our developing countries that have reached relatively higher levels of development and accumulated experiences in key areas such as health, agriculture, education, training, information and communications technology. Therefore, the different levels of development among our countries should be capitalised upon for the promotion of an alternative type of cooperation among developing countries.

Five years after Havana, we can proudly say that we have done something concrete towards the achievement of the goals of the Group of 77 and China. In this regard, important progress has been made at regional integration and inter-regional cooperation. These include the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as an appropriate framework for pulling Africa out of poverty and marginalisation. Based on national and regional priorities, as well as on designing development plans through participative processes, NEPAD aims at establishing a renewed agenda for Africa's development.

Equally important, is the common will demonstrated by Asian and African countries to strengthen the Bandung spirit, through the establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP). This is an important platform for cooperation among sub-regional economic organisations of our two continents.

Other steps and concrete projects among developing countries, such as the China-Africa Initiative, are sound contributions to this end. In our own region, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been playing a crucial role in the materialisation of political, economic, social and cultural regional integration of countries and peoples of the region. We promote and support the participation of the private sector in the cooperation agenda among developing countries. We also encourage the participation of the civil society in our development efforts.

The participation of our development partners, including the United Nations and the international financial institutions, is indispensable for the success of the global struggle against poverty, social and economic discrimination and marginalisation of the economies of developing countries.

We are also firmly persuaded that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals partly relies on the success of the South-South cooperation. It will equally rely on the fruition of different sub-regional and regional integration initiatives.

We would like to conclude by expressing our belief that both the Doha Declaration and Plan of Action which we expect to adopt here will take us a long way towards sustained economic growth in our countries. May we take this opportunity to indicate the availability of Mozambique to partake in initiatives towards concrete actions that will promote South-South co-operation.

We thank you for your attention.