

**STATEMENT BY
THE TEMPORARY GOVERNOR
FOR MOZAMBIQUE**

**Your Excellency,
Chairman of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank Group,
Your Excellency Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank,
Distinguished Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique, I wish to thank the ADB Group for its courageous and permanent contribution to the social and economic development of our continent.

I also wish to commend the organizers of these meetings for selecting a very topical and relevant theme which confirms the idea that sustainable development must be accompanied by strong measures to protect the environment.

Environmental degradation is likely to destroy all the development accomplished so far and jeopardize the achievement of key international cooperation and development objectives, while undermining the Millennium Development Goals and the fight against extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

Admittedly, we recognize the need for growth, but if we want this growth to produce long-term positive effects, we must factor in climate change at the planning stage of development projects.

Furthermore, risks associated with climate change should systematically be properly assessed for all projects or programmes.

Given that many African countries, whose populations are primarily dependent on subsistence agriculture, have a low financial capacity which does not allow them to develop the infrastructure and technologies needed to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change, it is expedient to negotiate the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism with developed countries, that would help developing countries to implement projects to control greenhouse gas emissions by means of “carbon credits”.

Global warming is one of the greatest challenges facing the twenty-first century civilization. Although draft agreements are being negotiated between countries in the quest for practical solutions, much remains to be done, either by way of implementation of strong and globally coordinated actions, or through the adoption of financing instruments with flexible and fast-track access conditions.

Given that it is a complex and global problem, it is urgent that coordinated and integrated solutions are found by governments, international financial institutions, businesses and the civil society.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We commend the efforts of the ADB Group which, under the leadership of its President, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, responded with wisdom and speed to the negative impacts of the financial crisis on the development of our countries.

In this regard, our appreciation goes to the Bank Group which, despite the immense difficulties brought about by the economic crisis in 2009, spared no effort to meet the development assistance needs of our countries.

As part of its regional integration strategy for the period 2009-2012, whose importance it recognizes, the ADB paid great attention to the emerging needs of this process.

In this context, we are pleased to note the increase in ADB assistance to multinational initiatives, with particular focus on infrastructure development and finance, through support to regional development banks and the establishment or strengthening of partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and/or build the capacity of regional financial institutions.

In this regard, we are convinced that the ADB is on track, because regional infrastructure development and expansion of alternative windows for their financing are some of the major challenges facing regional integration.

We welcome the implementation of the decentralization process promoted by the ADB, which has given fresh impetus to the disbursement of its resources. In that connection, we have noted improvements in project implementation and coordinated dialogue with other partners. However, to maintain or even improve the level of its operations, the Bank should continue to improve the working conditions of its field offices, particularly by strengthening their authority in operational decision-making and by improving communication conditions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome the decision to increase the Bank's general capital by 200%. We believe that this increase will progressively boost the Bank's assistance to development programmes and poverty reduction efforts in our country.

Mozambique would like to reiterate its total availability to collaborate and contribute to the effective implementation of this decision.

However, we hope that with more resources, the ADB will concretely and directly consider increased funding to public and private projects in all regional member countries.

We also call on the Bank to take the necessary measures to ensure that the Bank's financing window is directly extended in reality to the neediest countries, including Mozambique.

We welcome the support provided by donors through the ADF replenishment. There is no doubt that this support has contributed substantially to socio-economic development and improved the climate of negotiations in low-income countries such as Mozambique.

Allow me to note here that negotiations are underway for the 12th ADF Replenishment. We hope that our bilateral partners will do their utmost to substantially increase this assistance, given the growing needs of countries eligible for the Fund. In addition, we encourage the adoption of initiatives to ensure ADF participation in financing lucrative projects, especially those under the public-private partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our great admiration and deference go to the Executive Directors who have reached the end of their term; we appreciate their contribution to strengthening dialogue and cooperation between member countries and the ADB Group. Our best wishes go with them as they embrace new functions in their respective countries.

We welcome their successors, and promise to cooperate fully with them for a successful accomplishment of their mission.

We are satisfied with the re-election of Dr. Donald Kaberuka, a wise leader with deep understanding of the major challenges facing our countries' development. We hope that his qualities will grow and enable the ADB to achieve its main objective over the next five years.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to the organizers of these Meeting and to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for the warm welcome given to us. We have felt at home during the week we spent here.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.