

Check against delivery



INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF WOMEN AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by saluting all the presents and congratulate the Committee on the
Elimination of the Discrimination against Women

In this regard, efforts have been made by state institutions and civil society to ensure the effective implementation of those constitutional provisions.

One of the priorities expressed in the Government Quinquennial Program 2005-2009, is the political will to coordinate, ensure and encourage a gender mainstream in the definition, planning and implementation of sectoral development programs, in order to ensure the effective implementation of our commitments regarding gender issues, including the CEDAW.

I would like touch upon the adoption of the Gender Policy and its implementing strategy, aimed at developing an integrated line of action for the promotion of gender equality, the

A Network of Female Ministers and Parliamentarian has been launched recently. This is

also incorporate sanctions against sexual harassment at work and outside the working context and introduce for the first time paternity license for one every two years, on the immediate day following the child birth.

Within the context of continued efforts to revise discriminatory legislation, the commercial code and the notarial and registry code have been revised. Likewise, the Penal Code and the Succession Law are under revision.

A Proposal of Law against Domestic Violence has been drafted, aiming at responding to a global problem to which Mozambique is not immune.

of the civil society. This law foresees the prevention and sanctions for the perpetrators, as well as legal protection and assistance to the victims of domestic violence. A proposal of Law on the prevention and combat of human trafficking, special women and children has been also drafted, aiming at responding to a global problem to which Mozambique is not immune.

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Distinguished members of the Committee,

Efforts aiming at improving the women status in decision making, particularly in the public administration, have been developed to gradually overcome the gender

Authority for Public Administration has been created. It is important to mention that the Chairperson of that Body is a woman, and two out the 4 commissioners are women.

The National Authority for Public Administration in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Labour is involved in the elaboration of a

gender issues in the management system of human resources

practices. However, we strongly believe that the participation of men would assure positives and long-lasting changes.

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Concerning women and access to health services, the strategy of primary health care

In 2004 about 1.4 million of HIV positive Mozambicans, 58% were women. The gender inequalities are even alarming in the age group between 20-24 where in every four infected three are women, 75% of the HIV positive population is constituted by young women between 20 and 24 years old.

The **Government Policy and the Family Planning Strategy**, foresees that counselling services should be offered to the infected women aiming to reduce the number of new

Madam Chairperson,

In the labour sector, about 84% of the workers are employed in the informal sector: being 92.6% rural workers and 65% employed in the urban areas. In the informal sector

- ✓ The establishment of 50% of vacancies in Teacher's Training Institutions to be taken by girls for the Early Child Primary Education Level;
- ✓ The definition of annual goals for the girls' progress in all the districts where there

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Despite the efforts undertaken and the progress achieved in the reaffirmation of our commitment in ensuring the participation of women in all political, economical, social and cultural spheres, we recognize that we still have a long way to go and a lot to do to enable women to benefit from their rights without any constraints.

Likewise, Mozambique has reached good progress in the open and participatory governance but huge challenges remain in supporting rural women to achieve an effective and substantial participation in decision-making.