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STATEMENT

BY

**H. E. ANTÓNIO GUMENDE
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE
574th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Madam Chair,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time in this session, allow me, to join the previous speakers in congratulating you and the members of

- the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

Mozambique has been guided by these instruments to develop and adopt relevant national and setoral policies, legislation and programmes concerning the advancement and empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality and gender equity.

We are pleased to report that Mozambique is making progress in many areas of women's empowerment. The country has met and surpassed the target set under the auspices of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development of reaching 30 per cent women parliamentarians by 2010. Women represent 40% of all seats in Parliament whose Speaker is also a woman and we are working towards reaching 50% by 2015.

Remarkable progress has also been recorded in relation to the participation of women in the Government at central, provincial and district levels. High profile portfolios such as mineral resources, justice, local administration, environment, coordination, apart from women's

In addition to domestic violence, usually perpetrated by their male counterparts, women are also victims of many other economic, social and cultural ills that place them in situations of poverty and illiteracy.

11. The Government is putting in place broad-based institutional and legal mechanisms to address these social ills. Under the National Plan for prevention and combating violence against women, support services at

AIDS pandemic, which affects women and girls disproportionately because of their socially engendered status. This HIV/AIDS pandemic, associated with tuberculosis and malaria, constitute major threats for the social and economic development in our country.

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Madam Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating the commitment of Mozambique to implement the existing instruments adopted at national, regional, continental and global levels on the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women as a complement to the proactive

steps being taken at national level for the empowerment of women.

I thank you!