

**TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION  
OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**(Dr Abdula) Fifth plenary meeting, 24 May**

**Agenda item 3: Address by Address by Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General**

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Mr ABDULA (Mozambique):

Mr President, honorable ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your unanimous election.

Mr President, I would like, also, to welcome the presentation by the Director-General, which presented convincingly the progress we have achieved collectively as a society of nations, as well as the remaining challenges we face to offer the world population healthy and productive life and well being.

Improving health and the Mozambican population welfare, is part of an overall strategy of the country, led by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, to improve the living conditions of the population in an equitable and sustainable manner.

The Five-Year Government Programme 2015–2019 recognizes the central role of human and social capital in the implementation of social and economic activities necessary for sustainable and integrated socio-economic development of the country.

Our goal, in the health sector in this five-year period, is to expand access and improve the quality of health services, reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, morbidity and mortality from chronic malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, neglected tropical diseases and non-communicable diseases.

Dear colleagues, ladies, gentlemen,

In 2000, United Nations Member States established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it was a milestone. This landmark of the MDGs, must be permanently recognized as it brought a new paradigm to make the objectives and goals the center of attention of nations.

During the implementation of MDGs, we have seen a huge mobilization for synergies as well as the launch of several global initiatives. These joint efforts have brought considerable gains globally and in Mozambique. Our country has achieved MDG 4 and decreased by about 65% the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2015. This reduction is above the achieved global average (44%).

While we have made significant progress, it is noted that the problem remains concentrated in some regions of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The MDGs have given us the opportunity to learn a lot about the need to define common objectives and goals, as well as on the need for joint efforts, which somehow allows us to look with greater serenity and optimism the new transformation agenda of the world –2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. No doubt that the mobilization of

resources and how these resources are used will be crucial so that we can achieve the goals set out in the agenda. It is our responsibility to contribute to global efforts!

Dear colleagues, ladies, gentlemen,

As results of our collective efforts, Mozambique entered into the demographic transition that is accompanied with the changing of disease profile, the epidemiological transition. The number of people suffering from chronic non-communicable diseases is increasing. Many of the underlying causes of chronic diseases, including unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and smoking and alcohol consumption, are beyond the direct control of the health sector.

The health sector can, of course, monitor these diseases once they develop. But the pressure on health systems, already overburdened, is huge.

Prevention is by far the best option. But the prevention of chronic diseases requires a multisectoral approach. Again, we return to the principles of primary health care (PHC), intersectoral collaboration. We have to implement the concept of Health in All Policies in order to ensure that sectoral policies take into account the public health.

Ladies and gentlemen,

By subscribing the 2030 Agenda, Mozambique has committed to implement universal coverage and hence social protection. In order to achieve universal coverage in a sustainable way, we decided to revitalize PHC. To this end we organized in March 2016, our first National Conference on CSP that took important decisions that will change the paradigm of providing health care and tackle the social determinants of health.

Mozambique recognizes that PHC is the best system to reach households with essential and affordable care, and the best way to achieve universal health coverage.

Dear colleagues, ladies, gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I would like to share with this magna assembly that in April 2016, Mozambique completed the Joint External Evaluation of the core capacities to implement the International Health Regulations. We were only the third country which, voluntarily, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, and with the invaluable support from experts of various countries, the WHO and the FAO, performed this evaluation using the new tool developed by the WHO. We identified three priorities for each of the 19 evaluated technical areas. These priorities will be incorporated in a work plan that we will start implementing still this year.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to endeavor to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for your attention.