



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND WATER RESOURCES  
NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

**UN Water Conference 2023**

**March 23 2023**

**General Assemble Hall, UNHQ**

**MOZAMBIQUE SPEECH**

YOUR EXCELLENCY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF THE  
NETHERLANDS, CO-ORGANIZER OF THE CONFERENCE

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, CO-  
ORGANIZER OF THE CONFERENCE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is with great honor that we address this important event that deals with matters sensitive to human life, at a time when the challenges of access to water and sanitation are increasing, worsened by climate change and the scarcity of financial resources for the expansion of water supply and sanitation services.

Excellencies, allow me to take this opportunity to salute, specially the General Secretary of the United Nations, His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, for the noble courtesy of organizing the Conference and hosting Water Action Agenda.

Mozambique shares the same principles and challenges regarding water because we understand that the Water Action Agenda will strengthen the 2023 Water Conference through the engagement of multilateral funding agencies and development promoters.

The Republic of Mozambique is participating in this event at a time when it was elected, for the first time, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations, and is currently holding the rotating presidency during the month of March.

With this important role trusted by the member states, we hope to contribute to the promotion of initiatives aimed at prioritizing policies and financing for the development of the Water Sector at country level, considering that water is, in the world and in the Southern African region, in particular, an important element to ensure peace, social stability, and harmony between countries that share water resources provided by nature.

Mozambique is a signatory of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, within our economic and social conditions, the country is developing mechanisms that ensure the full implementation of these objectives, recognizing, however, the reality of a Country whose journey towards coverage universal access to water and sanitation services, is still a long way to go.

As a country, we are engaged in the universal provision of water, sanitation and water resource management services. For the implementation of SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation for All). Since 2015 until today, Mozambique has invested a total of US\$11.7 billion, focusing on building water supply, water and sanitation and Water Resources management Infrastructures.

However, to ensure the achievement of goals established, the country still needs more than 9.6 billion US dollars, being 4.1 billion US dollars for water supply and sanitation, and 5.5 billion US dollars for the water resources management component. Therefore, we continue to mobilize internal and external resources for this purpose.

We hope that the discussions and debates on the Water Action Agenda will strengthen cooperation between countries and find consistent solutions, both technical and financing models, for the development of hydraulic infrastructures, water supply and sanitation infrastructures, bearing in mind the sustainability aspects.

It is important, however, that the vision is not restricted only to the construction of infrastructures, but also to the correct and participatory maintenance and management. This is the only way we can walk firmly walk towards achieving universal services.

The Water Action Agenda is a space for sharing experiences in sustainable water management, promoting sanitation and good hygiene practices, promoting business, stimulate innovation and consolidating peace among peoples.

During our stay at this event, we expect an interaction on practices and experiences related to technological options for water supply, with emphasis on arid and semi-arid zones, including water desalination, as well as initiatives to ensure greater sustainability in the Water Sector.

With the impact of climate change that has affected the southern Africa, Mozambique, which is located downstream, has suffered from water scarcity and, on the other hand, from its abundance, as it happened few weeks ago when our country was hit by cyclone Freddy, at two different times and in different areas. This reality poses a challenge for us to mobilize resources to improve the management of water resources in the country.

The commitments of the Republic of Mozambique consist of decisive actions by the Government, supported by partners, aimed at increasing access to water supply and sanitation services towards universal access by 2030, as well as improving the management of water resources.

In recent times, our country has gradually adopted the implementation of water supply and sanitation infrastructures that are resilient to climate change and we are very honored to be able to share our experience and learn from what is being done in other countries.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Finally, I would like to praise the importance of holding the 2023 Water Conference, at an important moment for reflection and review of strategies, given that we are in the middle of the period of implementation of the SDGs.

We also praise the great contribution of the United Nations and other organizations, which have done much to improve the living conditions of the Mozambican population.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita**  
(Honorable Minister)