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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement on behalf the African Group

By

**His Excellency António Gumende, Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations**

at the

**Second session of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015
Development Agenda focusing on the declaration**

New York, 17 February 2015

Co-facilitators,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of G77 and China.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Co-facilitators, for having produced the “elements paper”, as a useful tool that will guide our discussions along this round of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, focusing on the declaration. We recognized the proposed element document contains important aspects that reflect different positions presented at the first session of negotiations held last month.

Although we agree with some elements contained therein we nevertheless express our concern with the way the means of implementation was reflected in this paper. We believe that Means of Implementation should include among others Trade, Finance, Technology transfer and Global partnerships. Similarly, we look forward to the incorporation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Development Financing that will take place in Addis Ababa in July this year.

As expressed in your elements paper, the Group is also in favour of a declaration that is concise, visionary, ambitious, actionable, communicable and simple and calls for truly collective action by all.

The declaration should reiterate the principles containing in the United Nations Charter as well as underscore the respect for national policy space while taking into account different capabilities and peculiar challenges of countries.

Furthermore, the African Group wishes to also stress that the declaration should reaffirm the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” as stated in the “The Future We Want” document, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio in 2012, and which the current intergovernmental negotiations have been based on.

Co- facilitators,

Once again, the Group would like to reiterate that given the particular importance that Africa attaches to a new global development framework, African leaders adopted a little less than a year ago a Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, reflecting the ambitions and aspirations of all Africans.

The Common African Position provides the Africa's development priorities, which are grouped into six pillars, namely:

- Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth;
- Science, technology and innovation;
- People-centered development;
- Environmental sustainability natural resources management, and disaster risk management;
- Peace and security; and
- Finance and Partnerships.

I would like to highlight that poverty eradication and sustainable development will not be achieved as long as the questions of peace and security are properly dealt with. Furthermore we believe that terrorism in all its form and manifestation constituted a major obstacle to achieving sustainable development, and we call for consolidated global efforts on part of the international community to strengthen cooperation to combat its causes as well as its spread.

It is our belief that the Post-2015 Development Agenda will reflect Africa's priorities and development programmes, thus responding appropriately to the specific challenges facing our continent. It is against this background that we stress that the declaration should incorporate the specific needs of different groups of countries, namely African countries, least developed countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked developing countries, and Middle income countries.

Similarly, the declaration should reiterate the carry-over of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals in the new global development agenda, underscore poverty eradication as the central objective of the Post 2015 agenda as well call on development partners who are yet to honor their commitments to developing countries to do so.

We also believe that the declaration should identify the need for a follow-up and review process that will be voluntary, state-led, act as a platform to exchange experiences, lessons learned and provide for further means of implementation, and will include national, regional

and global follow ups and reviews of the achievements of SDGs; including the fulfillment of commitments on Means of Implementation.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the readiness of the African Group to contribute to the fruitful discussions that will culminate in a draft declaration to be presented by May 2015 in accordance with GA decision A/69/L.46.

I thank you for your attention.