



**MuGeDe**

**Mulher Gênero e Desenvolvimento**

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## **Introduction**

My name is Saquina Mucavele, I represent an Association named MUGEDE- Mulher, Gênero e Desenvolvimento (Women, Gender and Development). Created in 2004, with the aim of Educating the communities related to the Civic and Environmental Values, For Rural Development in gender perspective.

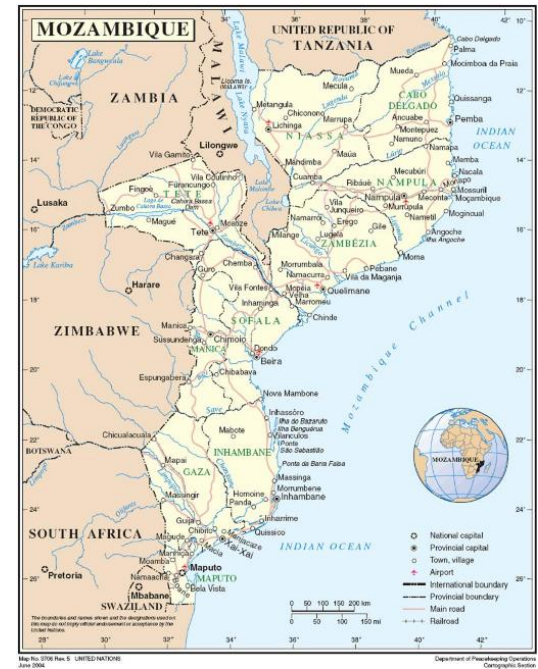
Before I advance, on behalf of my country and the organization that I represent, MUGEDE I would like to thank you for the invitation to participate in such an important event. Therefore, I express my appreciation to the organizers

## Basic Information

Mozambique is situated in the Southern Region of the African Continent, with the tropical humid climate and a total area surface of 800.000 km<sup>2</sup>.

According to INE last statistic, it is estimate that Mozambican Population is 20.5 habitants, whose 10.5 million, corresponding 52% are women and 72% of them live in the rural areas. 90% of the women living in the rural areas are working in the agriculture and 81.2% of these women, are illiterate. Apart from working in the agriculture as base for their subsistence, they also do domestic work (fetch water, look for firewood for cooking, take care of family and participate in some social activities within their communities). They also practice commerce, for them and for the families, as an alternative for their subsistence.

Hence the need of working with the government as a partner, in view to influence the polices/legislations (Legal framework), programmes (planification),



# **DECLARATION OF THE MOZAMBICAN RURAL WOMEN**

We, Rural Women gathered at the 2nd National Meeting of Rural Women held on October 14, 2008 in the Conference Room of Telecommunications of Mozambique (TDM) in Maputo;

Realizing with great concern that the economic and financial challenges in the world, Africa and Mozambique severely affect the socio-economic status of women, in particular the ones from rural areas, increase the number of women living in absolute poverty;

Recognizing the effort and commitment from the State and Government of Mozambique in promoting equality and gender equity;

Recognizing that the State and Government of Mozambique have been developing policies and programs for rural development, particularly for rural women such as the Green Revolution, Decentralization of State Budget to the Districts;

Believing that the State and Government of Mozambique work in strict collaboration with civil society;

We, Rural Women, gathered at the 2nd National Meeting of Rural Women identified the following constraints that hamper local development and particularly the development of rural women:

- High rates of illiteracy among rural women;
- High rates of maternal mortality among rural women;
- Poor access to information, means of production, technical assistance and knowledge about processing methods and use of new production technologies and markets;
- Poor access to financial capital (loans and donations);
- Difficulties in obtaining the Right to Use and Explore Land (DUAT);
- Poor access to water for consumption and irrigation;

- Weak presence of women in decision making institutions;
- Cultural constraints that make it difficult the access and control of resources by rural women;
- High rates of violence against women and girls, the last ones, particularly at school;
- Non existence of a Law that typifies domestic violence as crime;
- Poor access to justice services particularly in issues related to land, inheritance, domestic violence and violence against girls in schools;
- Poor participation of rural women in local, national and international forums and processes

*Thus, we, Rural Women gathered at the 2nd National Meeting of Rural Women held on October 14, 2009 at the Conference Room of TDM in Maputo appeal to the State and Government of Mozambique the following:*

Reinforce massively education and literacy programs of girls and rural women and increase access to standard and vocational education for basic, high and university levels;

Reduce the rate of maternal mortality;

Increase and improve access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services, particularly for young women, pregnant women (in reproductive age) and children;  
Increase access of rural women to information and training;

Place women in the centre of Green Revolution ensuring their access to DUAT, water, means of production, fertilizers, technical assistance, means and knowledge for processing and marketing and financial capital (loans and donations);

Ensure that a percentage of resources allocated to the districts benefit women or activities that promote gender equality (Fund for Agrarian Development);

Facilitate the participation of Mozambican rural women in international forums and processes such World Congress of Rural Women, United Nations Organization, World Trade Organization, Peace and Security Organization, African Union, SADC, Community of Portuguese Speaking countries, to name a few;

Facilitate the participation of Mozambican rural women in local and national forums such as Development observatory, Joint Review, Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP), Government Five Year plan, Provincial and District Economic and Social Plans for

**Maputo, October 14, 2008**

**Mozambican Forum of Rural Women**