



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**

**Address by His Excellency**

**Dr. Alexandre Manguela, Minister of Health, on the**

**Occasion of the II International Conference on**

**Nutrition**



**Rome, November de 2014**

**Your Highness King Letsie III,**

**Your Excellences Heads of States and Government,**

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Mr. Director General of FAO ,**

**Madame Director General of the World Health**

**Organization,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. I am honoured stand before this gathering on behalf of the Republic of Mozambique to welcome the convening of Second International Conference on Nutrition and thank to Directors General of FAO and WHO for having convened this important meeting and for the invitation extended to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique.
2. The scourge of hunger and chronic mal nutrition is still challenging our World today, bearing in mind the number of people that are still faced by this

unsustainable situation, particularly children, woman and elderly people, the majority of them living in developing countries, notwithstanding the resources, knowledge and the amount of food in existence to feed the world populations.

3. Recognizing that the root causes and factors leading to malnutrition are complex and multidimensional and lies mainly on poverty and underdevelopment is therefore timing to join our collective efforts in order to find ways and means to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, as an imperative for health, ethical, political, social and economic reasons.
  
4. To address this adversity situation the Government of Mozambique approved in 2010 **the National Multisectoral Plan of Action to Reduce Chronic Mal-nutrition** (PAMRDC), which is implemented by the a Technical Secretariat on Food and Nutrition Security, under the Office of the Prime Minister.

5. This Plan aims to reduce under nutrition from the level of 44% to 20% in 2020. The PAMRDC has strategic objectives, related nutritional activities with impact on the adolescent (10-19 years); nutritional interventions with impact on the health conditions of women in fertile stages during and after the pregnancy and latency; nutritional intervention for children in the first two years; nutritional interventions to ensure access and good utilization of nutritious food and Training the Human Resources on Nutrition;
6. To strengthen advocacy, multi sectorial coordination to ensuring the implementation of PAMRDC; and 7. To strengthen food and nutrition surveillance in the country.
7. In 2012, Mozambique initiated the decentralization of the PAMRDC with the view to support the 11 provinces in the country aligning with the national

plans. So far, five (5) provinces have their Provincial PAMRDC approved by the local Government.

8. Those actions have contributed to progress in some of the indicators, for example: low weight birth reduced from 22% in 2003 to 15% in 2011; the under nutrition reduced from 44% in 2008 to 43% in 2011 and chronic food security reduced from 35% in 2006 to 24% in 2013.

9. Notwithstanding these progresses made, a lot remain to be done. It is with this understanding that the Government of Mozambique has taken the commitment to improve nutrition for the all population through (i) integration of nutrition objectives in the social protection actions, women affairs and planning; (ii). Continuing and strengthening the nutrition governance and multi sectorial coordination at higher level; (iii) the dissemination and demonstration of nutritional intervention at schools; (iv) The expansion of

fortification and bio-fortification efforts to provide nutritious food to all the population; (v). To provide a household fortification with micronutrients powder to children under one year old; (vi) expand drink water and improved sanitation; and finally strengthen monitoring and evaluation of sensitive and specific nutritional interventions.

10. The Nutrition issue is therefore not only an issue for Agriculture and Health sectors but becomes a multi sectoral challenge and the centre of the Government agenda.

11. Before I conclude, I would like to reaffirm Mozambique commitment to establish or put in place the mechanisms that will speed up the materialization of both Rome Declaration on Nutrition, and its Framework of Action, as a way to comply with the broad objectives and targets concerning the improvement of nutrition and thus, meet the aspirations of our peoples.

12. While the majority of the population in our countries are facing the mal nutrition, some countries in Africa are suffering ebola outbreak needing to reinforce nutrition intervention.
13. Finally , I would like to express my deeply gratitude for the good organization and hospitality provided to my delegation in this wonderful city.
- Thank you very much for your attention, obrigado!

**Rome, 20 November 2014**