



REPÚBLIC OF MOÇAMBIQUE

**OPENNING REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY FILIPE JACINTO NYUSI,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC,
AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE SADC DOUBLE TROIKA**

MAPUTO, 8 APRIL 2021

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Double Troika;

His Excellency President of the Republic of Botswana and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC;

Honourable Ministers;

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me on behalf of the Mozambican People, my delegation and on my own behalf, warmly welcome and wish a wonderful stay in our City of Maputo to all of you Heads of State and Government of Member countries of the Double Troika, their Delegations and the SADC Secretariat.

This Double Troika Summit was convened to materialise a decision we made, within the framework of regional efforts to fight terrorism, a global phenomenon that has been targeting Mozambique over the past three years and it is an unequivocal demonstration of the solidarity of SADC Member States towards our country.

This Summit will also enable us to jointly consider workable actions to strengthen the fight against this scourge, and not allow it to continue

destabilizing Mozambique and spread to the entire SADC region. Destabilization will undermine the attainment of our objectives of deepening regional integration and development under the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the SADC Vision 2050.

Your Excellencies,

Our Chairpersonship takes place against the backdrop of global challenges that have a regional and local impact, namely: the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, climate change and the negative impact of Covid-19.

Permitam-me destacar o tema sobre terrorismo e extremismo violento que assolam Moçambique. O terrorismo está a provocar mortes, deslocação de milhares de pessoas e destruição de infraestruturas económicas e sociais. Os terroristas com as suas investidas atroz, violência física e psicológica, procuram intimidar o povo, retroceder o desenvolvimento e condicionar a nossa soberania.

Allow me to highlight the theme on terrorism and violent extremism that affects Mozambique. Terrorism is causing deaths, displacement of thousands of people and destruction of economic and social infrastructure. Terrorists, with their atrocious attacks, physical and psychological violence, seek to intimidate the people, reverse development and constrain our sovereignty.

The cowardly nature of this phenomenon requires us to strengthen collective surveillance and improve the regional instruments at our disposal to eradicate this evil from our SADC region.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Member States of our Community for the continued solidarity and support they have rendered to us, not only through the unconditional condemnation of these barbaric acts, but also by showing their determination to cooperate with us to eradicate them.

Excellencies,

The terrorist activities in Cabo Delgado are an affront to our collective security, the values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for the human rights and freedoms of our citizens.

It is therefore important that we leave this summit with concrete actions to guide the fight against terrorism, and this is one of the current priorities of SADC and its Member States, as well as its international partners.

The terrorist attacks of recent days have shown that security is also a shared responsibility. By helping Mozambique, SADC goes a long way in protecting its citizens and achieving collective objectives in the different areas.

Your Excellencies,

The fight against terrorism, with the potential to destabilise the entire Region of the Southern African Development Community, requires us political leaders to take collective measures to prevent further attacks. Stricter border control, better police and judicial cooperation

to detect and pursue suspects must be established. We must find asserted ways to prevent terrorist financing. We must strictly promote the fight against organised crime and counter radicalisation, among others.

Terrorists and criminals are also our citizens who join the aggressors from other parts of Africa and the world. They use false identities to avoid border and police authorities, which underscores the importance of effective intelligence sharing between the relevant agencies

Security in the SADC region is a priority for regional institutions, so we believe that SADC is the appropriate and immediate forum for Member States cooperation and coordination to fight terrorism. Our cooperation must not neglect the responsibility and competence of each country in combating terrorism and other security threats, as the defence of each country is the primary responsibility of that respective country.

At this stage the fight against terrorism in Mozambique, while it is the sovereign responsibility of Mozambique is also a problem for the Region, and a domestic matter for SADC.

I hope that our deliberations will result not only in improving the strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism, but also in tangible measures in the four pillars: Prevent, protect, pursue and respond.

Thank you very much!