



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Her Excellency's Intervention

**CUSTÓDIA PAÚNDE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS SECTOR**



INDUSTRIALIZAR

M O Ç A M B I Q U E

Location: Meliã Hotel

Date February 5th and 6th, 2026

MAPUTO, FEBRUARY 2026

To the Most Excellent Ms. Christine de Barros Said, Head of Cooperation at the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

His Excellency Mr. Faray Manhanga, Representative of the SADC Secretariat;

Distinguished cooperation partners,

Dear representatives of the public and private sectors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is with great honor and satisfaction that, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique and myself, we welcome you to this “Consultation Workshop on the Strategic Plan for the Leather and Leather Products Sector in Mozambique,” a government initiative carried out in partnership with SADC and GIZ, which brings together the main actors in the sector with the aim of reflecting, discussing, and contributing to the sustainable and competitive development of this important value chain.
2. The Government of Mozambique reaffirms, through this initiative, its firm commitment to industrialization as a fundamental pillar of economic development, job creation, and the reduction of import dependence. Within the framework of the country's Industrialization Policy and Strategy, the leather sector is considered a priority sector for adding value to national resources, promoting private investment, developing skills, and strengthening national and regional value chains.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The leather sector and its products possess high economic and industrial potential, considering the existing livestock population in the country and the market opportunities at the national, regional, and international levels. However, it continues to face structural challenges, namely low local processing, raw material losses, technological and financial limitations, as well as environmental constraints. Added to this are the weak link between

producers and industry, competition from imported products, and poor integration into regional value chains.

4. It is precisely to respond to these challenges that the Government is promoting the development of a solid, realistic and results-oriented Strategic Plan, which will allow the transformation of the leather and leather products sector from a supplier of raw materials into a competitive industrial sector that generates employment.
5. Thus, by strengthening production, local processing, and the competitiveness of the leather sector and its products, Mozambique is positioned more advantageously to take full advantage of regional, continental, and international integration, transforming leather into a strategic export product that generates employment, added value, and sustainable industrial development.
6. The development of the leather and leather products value chain is a strategic vector for strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation within SADC and within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). By promoting local and regional leather processing, countries in the region create concrete opportunities for productive integration, complementary specialization, and sharing of industrial infrastructure, contributing to more coordinated and competitive industrialization.
7. In the context of SADC, the leather value chain allows for deepening bilateral cooperation through the articulation between hide-producing countries and countries with greater tanning and manufacturing capacity, promoting regional supply chains, technology transfer, and cross-border investments. This approach reduces the export of raw materials, strengthens intra-regional trade, and increases the added value retained in the region.
8. At the continental level, the AfCFTA offers a favorable framework for expanding cooperation among African countries in the production and marketing of leather products, through the progressive elimination of tariffs, harmonization of rules of origin, and reduction of non-tariff barriers. The development of regional leather value chains strengthens the capacity of

countries to compete collectively with products imported from outside the continent.

Ladies and gentlemen

9. The plan to be developed aims to create conditions for the leather sector and its products to move beyond a marginal market share and begin to consistently meet the demands of domestic consumption and the opportunities offered by SADC, ZCLCA, and international markets, contributing to increased exports, import substitution, and sustainable job creation.
10. This workshop constitutes a privileged space for dialogue and consultation, where we hope to gather concrete contributions from the private sector, associations, producers, industry, academia, and development partners, in order to ensure that the Strategic Plan reflects the real needs of this sector.
11. We appeal to everyone present here for active, open and solution-oriented participation, as the results of this workshop will directly inform the Strategic Plan for the Leather and Leather Products Sector in Mozambique and guide future interventions by the Government and partners.
12. Allow us to reiterate our appreciation to SADC and GIZ for their technical and institutional support, as well as to all the actors present here for their commitment to the development of this strategic sector.
13. We wish everyone a productive workshop, with frank discussions and clear recommendations that contribute to building a strong, competitive, and sustainable leather and leather products sector in Mozambique.

Thank you very much for your attention!