

**Remarks by H.E. Aires Aly, the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Mozambique, at the High-Level Event on Development Cooperation in Education**

Brussels, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007

**Chairperson,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all I would like to thank the European Commission, the United Kingdom and the World Bank for organizing this High-Level Event on Development Cooperation in Education. This meeting is a fresh testimony of the commitment of all countries to mobilize support for MDGs in Education.

The Government of Mozambique is engaged in doing all its efforts to attain the MDGs in all areas, particularly in Education.

From 2000 to 2006 the number of children in schools almost doubled and we have now more than 4.8 million children in all subsystems of general and technical education. Progress was also made in the way the international community is helping our education strategic plan. But, we all understand that this is not enough. We still have some 500 thousand children of 6-10 years, out of school that need to be integrated in the system. And this has to be done quickly if we want to attain the MDG in Education, by 2015.

My Government approved in June last year, the new strategic plan which emphasizes quality, access and capacity development. The Education and Culture Strategic Plan is a balanced and holistic plan that includes all areas of the sector, from primary to higher education. The plan stresses the major challenges such as the need to train and recruit more teachers for primary and secondary education to build more classrooms, the need for furniture, school materials and financial support for new schools. Implementation capacity is a key in this process, to ensure the effectiveness of our actions.

In terms of our cooperation, we will need to mobilize more external donor support to the plan, which means sustainable and predictable financial aid, in order to educate more than 7 million children and thus to fulfill the MDG. Our gap is now more than 100 Million USD per year.

**Chairperson**

The Government of Mozambique has been working actively with all stakeholders in the implementation of the plan. The 2007 annual review meeting, and the Week of Global Action of Education For All revealed the strengths of our partnership. We have new countries joining the Education Sector Support Fund. The increase in financing and predictable long term commitments and budget support are key to attain MDGs in 2015.

I want to assure you that, my Government is committed with good governance, transparency and accountability in the management of internal and external funds.

**Chairperson,**

In my country teachers and children are expecting good results of this initiative. Lets not disappoint them, and work together to make education a right for all children a reality.

Thank you!