



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
MOZAMBIQUE INSTITUTE FOR COTTON**

**STATEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE 78<sup>HT</sup> ICAC PLENARY  
MEETING**

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On behalf of the Mozambique Delegation

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**Brisbane - Australia, from 2 to 5 December 2019**

**Respectable Chair of the Standing Committee of the ICAC,**

**Distinguished Delegates of the member countries,**

**Distinguished Observers,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a special honour for Mozambique to address the 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the ICAC, taking place here in Brisbane, Australia, under the theme “Global Leadership: Pushing Cotton’s Boundaries”. Please accept greetings from the people and Government, specifically the cotton stakeholders of the Republic of Mozambique. Special importance, are the greetings from the cotton smallholders farmers from our fascinating country.

Cotton has been, is and will remain an important crop for the Mozambique’s economy. Despite the diversification of economy and emergency of new and very dynamic commodities in general and some high priced agricultural products, cotton remains the 7<sup>th</sup> export commodity in general and ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> amongst traditional export commodities.

It is also a special important crop for rural livelihoods and development, ensuring cash incomes for more that 1,5 millions of rural citizens, earning their cash directly from cotton. Its importance is also recognized on food security and human health, by reasons well known by this audience.

Like everywhere in the world, cotton industry in Mozambique is influenced by national policies, organization and assistance to the farmers, pests and diseases, weather patterns, as well as international market dynamic. As a consequence, we witness variation of the national output, ranging, in our days, between 25.000 to 35.000 tons of lint, at 38% ginning out turn, far below the peak production of 70.000 tons of lint obtained in the past, on the season 2011/12.

For the season 2018/19, Mozambique expects to produce about 23.000 tons of cotton lint. Reasons behind these poor figures are, amongst other, unfavourable weather conditions along the seasons especially IDAI and KENNETH cyclone that devastated the Center and North of the country, farming inefficiencies, as well as market inefficiencies of our private sector and the volatilities of price and exchange rate.

Being this, the ninth Plenary Meeting we are attending on a status of member, we are happy to learn from the long experience of the distinguished Delegates here representing their own countries, but also from the countries as such, and we here commit our self to be active member and fulfil our duties and obligations within the platform.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The theme “Global Leadership: Pushing Cotton’s Boundaries” elected for this 78<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, is a timely discussion, as the cotton sector faces challenges throughout its value chain, that needs to be addressed, both at

global and local levels. This makes us believe that sustainability of the cotton subsector will depend on the ability of the parties to coordinate and cooperate, rather than in competition.

The above theme calls the parties involved along the cotton value chain to work together as to keep cotton alive, vivid and competitive. It is right time to have farmers implement cotton promotion and cotton competitiveness programs.

Within the framework of the Cotton Value Chain Revival Program that Mozambique is implementing, and we had opportunity to inform this plenary on our previous statements, every single pieces of the cotton value chain are addressed by our program.

With this program we want to create a cotton sub-sector competitive and sustainable, aimed at increasing production and productivity and adding value.

Mozambique understands the calls for sustainability along the cotton value chain, as call for parties to work together as cotton fraternity to produce, get and share benefits from cotton production for endless number of generations.

Regarding the competitiveness of the Mozambican cotton component, we have already modernized of the three cotton classification labs in terms of infrastructure, equipment and training of the classifiers. Next year, the country will start using instrumental certification of fiber in all these labs. Furthermore the country has been working on establishing a barcode system

in order to track the national fiber. In partnership with the Ethiopian government, a handcrafted cotton promotion center was set up, now the country has also been trying to mobilize resources to put in place hospital cotton and textile industry. From this meeting, we also expect to lure more projects to Mozambique and create more partnerships towards implementation of the projects above.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Currently, one of the biggest challenges is availability, in quality and quantity, of cotton seed as a basic technology, but we believe that if we solve this issue we can improve our figures in at least 70%. Efforts to run a seed program has been made but there is a big gap between plan and realization.

So, you are all invited to come and support us the implementation of this program, especially on a commercial basis that will help the country to quickly increase the production and productivity. In Mozambique, the market for cotton seed production and multiplication is very fertile and the demand is very huge. Possible, businessmen in your countries would be interested to come to Mozambique and invest in such business opportunity

Also, you are all invited to come and implement with us this program, especially on components like commercial production that will help the country to quickly increase its production. We also acknowledge big overseas of investment opportunities on the value addition of cotton.

Finally, we would like to appreciate the efforts of ICAC to keep us together to attend this meeting. It is a great opportunity for us in different perspectives of learning, exchange experience and develop common goals to develop the cotton industry.

Thank you very much for listening Mozambique's statement.