



PEACE AND SECURITY:

Ingredients for social and economic development

Address by HE Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique, Chairperson of SADC and of CPLP, at the Australian Institute of International Relations round table discussion

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Mr. John McCarthy

National President of Australian Institute of International Affairs;

Ms Melissa Conley

National Executive Director of Australian Institute of International Affairs;

Eminent Professors and Researchers;

Distinguished Members of the Institute;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You did us a great honour by inviting us to address this august gathering at this prestigious institution of academic excellence and international reputation, the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Indeed, over the 89 years of its existence, it has built the most wide-ranging networks across political and geographical frontiers and has asserted itself as an ideal platform for research backed debates and a tested scholarship frontline of the battle in the field of international politics and diplomacy, peace, democracy and development. Your research findings and policy recommendations and directions have become valuable references for generations of public and private decision makers from across the globe.

Our presentation will deal with two issues at a snapshot fashion: SADC and CPLP. It is our view that the magnitude and complexity of the challenges facing the world today create greater mutual dependency between and among states inducing regional integration as a means to address those challenges.

Ladies and Gentleman,

SADC was established in 1980 with the broad aim of, on the one hand, reducing the dependence of the majority ruled countries of Southern Africa on Apartheid South Africa and, on the other, of making them more viable through complementarity and integration. You will recall that the Independence of Mozambique and Angola, in 1975, sent political and diplomatic shockwaves through the nerve system of the minority regimes which, in response, increased their direct military aggression, engineered the emergence of and supported the indigenization of insurgency and multiplied economic blackmail initiatives against the independent states of the region. At

the height of this strategy South Africa launched the ill-fated Constellation of the Southern Africa States which sought to bring under the orbit of South Africa some of the independent states of Southern Africa which were thus to join the so-called independent Bantustans, already gravitating around Pretoria.

The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference was born out in this climate through a declaration entitled *Southern Africa: Towards Economic Liberation*. More importantly, SADCC was born as a rather loose form of co-operation and its strength rested on Member State where the engine rooms, driving this process, the sector coordinating units, were housed. For example, the Transport and Communications Commission was coordinated by Mozambique, the Sector for Energy by Angola and Inland fisheries by Malawi.

With the changes looming in the horizon, including the unavoidable crumbling of Apartheid in sight, SADCC moved from the Declaration to a Treaty in 1992 with legally binding protocols. Under the Summit of Heads of State and Government, two areas were covered: on the one hand the social and economic issues, which were inherited from the 1980 arrangements and the defense and security issues which were inherited from the Front Line States and now came under the coordination of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation. The Front Line States were spearheaded by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in the early 1970's and focussed on regime stability (as opposed to regime change which formed part of the Apartheid South Africa regime change), majority rule and the creation of regional economic prosperity. They played this decisive role by coordinating their political, diplomatic and military actions for the defense of their citizens and nations and for the liberation of the rest of Southern Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique is the current chair of SADC Summit, while Tanzania chairs the Organ on Politics Defense and Security Cooperation. Development corridors have been identified as the focus of Mozambique's Presidency in that they are seen to be pillars facilitating the movement of people and goods and thus, regional integration. A major event with development partners and private sector is planned for this semester, to reflect on and mobilize funding for the Master Plan for Development of Regional Infrastructures. This is a project that links up with those being developed by East Africa Community, COMESA and by the African Union, towards continental integration.

Given the role peace and security play in this agenda, we have been working closely with Tanzania and the entire SADC membership to ensure the existing challenges in this regard are addressed. We will briefly update you on the developments in the region's hotspots.

The People of Madagascar are about to deliver their beloved country out of the crisis. Like them and their political leaders, we understood from the beginning that sustained economic growth, that they so anxiously need, can only be achieved in an environment of peace, security and stability. Through dialogue and the active participation of the political actors in Madagascar, SADC is succeeding in shaping and putting in place an inclusive and results-oriented agenda, through the SADC roadmap driven on the ground by the SADC Mediator, the former President of Mozambique. We are pleased to note that patriotic and courageous Malagasy political stakeholders are taking charge of this road map, making concessions

here and there because they put the interests of their people at the top of their agenda.

The Inclusive Government of Zimbabwe has made good progress in preparing the ground for the next elections. Indeed, consensus has been reached on the draft new constitution which will be tabled for referendum in the next few days. This is tremendous progress if we take into account that the political actors were far apart and more suspicious of each other's move some five years ago than are now. Under the Global Political Agreement of 2009, the political parties have been sharing power and, more importantly, the responsibility to bring peace and stability to their country. More than once, they have taken part in international conferences to speak in one voice to showcase Zimbabwe as a land of peace and opportunities.

The security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is relatively calm although, like the humanitarian situation, continues to call for our attention and coordination of interventions. It is also noteworthy that negotiations are on-going, in Kampala, between the Government of the DRC and M23, one of the armed groups that is destabilizing peace in that country.

As a result of a diplomatic drive, under the leadership of SADC, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the African Union and the United Nations, an agreement, with contours of a non-aggression pact, was signed on the 24 February 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all its neighbours with the aim of bringing lasting peace to that sister country. The international organizations present, including SADC, also signed as guarantors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We now turn to the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). This organization was established in 1996 with the aim of providing its Member States with a platform for coordination of diplomatic positions in international politics and diplomacy fora as well as for the promotion of Portuguese.

One of CPLP greatest advantage is that its member states are party to organizations of the geopolitical regions where they are located. Since its inception CPLP has been growing in prestige such that a number of other countries have expressed interest to be associated with it in some way or another.

At the Summit held in Maputo, where we assumed its chairmanship, we have decided to focus our Presidency on the Challenges caused by Food Security and Nutrition. This is a cross-cutting issue that touches on peace, political stability, sustainable development and which has a great potential to promote international cooperation and solidarity among member states.

One of our member States, Guiné-Bissau, is currently going through very challenging times, following the unconstitutional change of Government in April last year. Mozambique, as the Chair of CPLP, working together with the CPLP membership, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the United Nations and, indeed, with other stakeholders, is assisting that sister country to find a road out of the crisis. In this regard, we welcome the appointment of the former President of East Timor, José Ramos-Horta, as the United Nations Secretary General Special Representative for Guiné-Bissau.

Ladies and gentlemen

Over the years we have come to learn that our success in the implementation of our agenda for peace, security and development lie in building upon the many successes of the past and on the opportunities that abound, steering away from the risks and dealing decisively with the threats. Both the member states of SADC and those of the CPLP have the will and determination to work together and to tap on the different gifts of nature we are blessed with which are, indeed, our great assets as is our human capital, the best and most reliable renewable resource at our disposal.

To conclude, we would like to point out that since their foundation, these organizations have proved themselves to be able to rise up to the challenges they were faced with, are doing likewise in the present and will stand firm to confront, head on, those of tomorrow.

We thank very for your kind attention.