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CENTRO DE ESTUDOS ESTRATÉGICOS
E INTERNACIONAIS (CEEI)

"Emerging actors in Africa, Economic Diplomacy and the quest for Economic Security"

Summary of the Speech by H.E. the deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Henrique Banze, at the Opening of the Conference

Maputo, 23-24 April 2012

Ever since the liberation struggle, the guiding principle of Mozambique's foreign policy and cooperation has been to develop relations and partnerships with a large number of bilateral countries and organisations. In the interest of the country's development, Mozambique seeks to explore synergies from that set of different relationships. Emerging and traditional actors alike are important partners, with their different areas of expertise and experiences.

North-South cooperation remains very important for Mozambique, as for other developing countries. Its financial volumes are critical for the economy as they contribute to a minimum of financial stability. Cooperation with the EU, for instance, provides Mozambique with 600M euros under the current 2008-2012 period, providing direct budget support, contributing namely to fight poverty in the country and support infrastructure development. South-South cooperation has its added-value too, bringing the experience of countries with similar development levels, and technologies that may be more adapted to the country context. For Mozambique, like for other developing countries, North-South and South-South cooperation are complementary and equally relevant in their own comparative advantages, as made evident also in the debates during the 2011 aid effectiveness conference in Busan.

The economic diplomacy of emerging economies in Africa has at times been controversial, but their presence and interest in Africa should be an opportunity to join forces and jointly develop solutions to the socio-economic and political problems of global nature, and of Africa in particular. Emerging economies and African states alike are using economic diplomacy as a tool to diversify access to domestic and international resources, technology and creating new market opportunities, thus contributing to promote and preserve socio-economic development and stability. The global concern for the economic security of states – and thereafter access to resources, financing and markets – has resulted in increasing investment in Africa from partners all over the world. Emerging economies have been supporting African countries in the prospection and exploration of mineral and energetic resources in the continent, and widening market access to goods and services on a mutual interest basis. However, just like Africa is not the single and exclusive partner of emerging economies, Africa too must diversify its partners.

There is a positive impact in Africa of relations with emerging economies. It has strengthened our interdependence and cemented good relations. We must however also acknowledge that economic diplomacy and the imperative of economic security can at times be a source of tensions and generate conflicts, as is already happening in a few cases. Although this is not the expected outcome of a competitive and cooperative process, we must learn from it and make our economic diplomacies and politics of economic security, and those of our traditional partners, more sensitive to the African cultural reality, more sensitive to the

environment and to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

The current initiative by CEEI, ECDPM and IEEI is a welcome contribution to that debate, exchange and reflection to the benefit of all.