

Excellencies Members of the Panel
Distinguished IEF Members
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Foremost I would like to commend the Government of Kuwait and the Secretariat of the IEF, for all the efforts developed to join all of us here to proceed with discussions regarding this pertinent issue of our daily life – Oil. I do join my voice also to all the delegates and stress my appreciation and recognition for the hospitality addressed to me and all my delegation.

Excellencies, as you may know Mozambique is strategically located in the Southern Africa region with a coastal area of about 2500km and share borders with Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This strategic location imposes enormous challenges to the country, not only as a net oil importer but also as a transit country for the hinterland countries, namely Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and recently to Botswana. This situation imposes a huge set of challenges which requires a conjunction of efforts to be sought-out.

The development, usage and maintenance of the port facilities and infrastructures for oil storage, transport and distribution are not a mere choice of our country. They are a result of the recognition of our role and agreements with our prestigious neighbour countries.

The economic growth and the increasing challenges imposed by the development needs transformed the cooperation in oil domain in a urgent matter with a paramount importance among the Southern Africa Countries and the primary oil producers, envisaging the reinforcement of better oil acquisition conditions and access to the producers market.

Distinguished participants

As a net oil importer Mozambique is exposed to the vulnerabilities and fluctuations of oil prices, an issue that do affect negatively our balance of payments and consequently the peoples standards of life. The financial resources allocated to the importation of oil and its derivates would be addressed to other domains of social economic development, namely: health, education water and sanitation.

In order to handle the uncertainty derived from the fluctuation of the oil prices, becomes important the engagement of all the producers and consumers in an

international dialog such as the opportunity that this forum provides, to reach consensus about the mechanisms of coordination in order to contribute to the predictability and transparency which shall allow to understand and avoid the signals of uncertainty and speculation in the oil international market.

It is in this regard that in this forum, our expectation is focused on the straightening of our relation with all the oil producer countries, international companies or individuals, in order to bust a future fruitful cooperation, share of experiences and good practices and learning from each other.

Allow me Excellencies to emphasize that the strategic location and position of Mozambique in the Southern Africa region and its role on the relation with the inter-land countries, requires a specific capacity and institutional building, training and consultancies to adequate our activities to the international practices and technology in use, so that we can combine accurately the development of the country and people with zero impact to the environment.

Before I conclude my remarks, allow me Excellencies to extend my invitation to all of you to pay a visit to Mozambique, to explore the huge potential and investment opportunities that the country offers and delight yourself with the tropical hospitality and amenities of Mozambique and its people.

I Thank You!