STATEMENT BY AMB. PEDRO COMISSARIO,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE TO UN ON
THE RELEASE OF UNCTAD'S SECOND REPORT OF EMINENT PERSONS

Mr President, Mr. Secretary General of UNCTAD,

Madame President Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland, Co-Chair of
the Panel of Eminent Persons,

Madame Vice-President Margarita Cedeño de Fernandez,

Distinguished Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Co-Chair of the Panel of Eminent
Persons,

Distinguished Eminent Persons,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset let me thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for inviting me to participate in the Special Event of the launching of the Second Report of Your Panel of Eminent Persons, entitled “Addressing Key Economic Issues to Advance Sustainable Development: Ideas for Actions”.

I would like to commend you for this important achievement and also for having succeeded in assembling an outstanding group of statesmen, politicians, academicians. President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, a respected and beloved son of Mozambique and its former Head of State is among them. Unfortunately, due to other commitments he could not join this special event. Mozambique is, therefore, proud to have been associated with this initiative since its inception in 2005.

We are aware that the current report builds upon the outcomes of the other Report by the Panel of Eminent Persons entitled “Enhancing the Development Role and Impact of UNCTAD.” The first report, through member States endorsement at UNCTAD XII, has contributed to this objective, which is enhancing the development impact of the organization.

As you know, Mozambique concluded recently its Investment Policy Review here in this precise room, during the fifth session of the Investment,
Enterprise and Development Commission. This Commission was brought into existence on the basis of a recommendation of the first Panel. The first Panel also talked about the catalytic role and relevance of the UNCTAD Secretariat’s interventions in the field, including in the investment area.

Now, we have a new approach. The Panel provides us with an outside the box thinking on key and emerging development issues - all of which with a direct relevance to the poorest countries, the least developed countries which include my own country, Mozambique.

I listened carefully to their Excellencies, to Prof. Bhagwati, as well as to Dr. Supachai, and I applaud their independent thinking. For us, the Eminent Persons are not advocating radical views. They are for pragmatic solutions. Their report offers a wealth of valuable ideas for concrete actions that could contribute to addressing the development problem and shed a light on how to bring about the development-centered globalisation in the post-crisis era.

Indeed, issues like global economic and financial governance, Trade, Commodities, Investment, Enterprise and supply chain, Technology capability, International migration, Green economy, Women in development, and Inclusive growth, raised in the report, are dear to my country as most of them are part of Mozambique’s Government Plan of Action.

I wish to welcome the conclusions on important issues touched upon in the Report, particularly the proposals on the establishment of the development observatory, dialogue on open regionalism, diversification of the economic base, coordination of international investment policies, strengthening of the productive capacity of developing countries, dissemination of technologies, development impact of migration, International assistance centre for Green Investment and Technology, empowerment of women, informal sector and its formalization.

The conclusions on the Doha Development Agenda, the fate of the Least Development Countries, the imperative need to step up assistance to vulnerable economies, including the economies of the Sub-Sahara Africa meet our expectations on the outcome of the Panel of eminent Persons.

May I take this opportunity to thank UNCTAD for the advice and advocacy extended to Africa’s regional integration undertakings.

Next year, UNCTAD will be 50 years old. Mozambique is happy to notice that the objectives for which it was created remain valid today thanks, to a great extent, to the work and wise leadership Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi and his team. Mozambique wishes to pay tribute to him, for his service and dedication during the 8 years of tenure as the Secretary General of UNCTAD.
He will leave behind a rich and cherished legacy that will helpUNCTAD, to play an effective and meaningful role in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the post 2015 Agenda.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We believe that the Report's recommendations will ultimately play a role in fostering partnership, restoring confidence and promote the spirit of "shared success". As the Secretary General of UNCTAD mentioned, "Partnership rather than partisanship can deliver the development solutions we seek."

In this sense, the recommendations and ideas brought forward by the Report may also be helpful to the new incoming Secretary-General and I strongly urge that the Report be made available to him without delay.

I thank you.