

**Speech by Carlos Zorrinho at the opening of 42^{to the}
Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
Maputo, 31 October 2022**

Dear President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi.

Ms Esperanca Laurinda Francisco Nhiuane Bias, President of the National Assembly.

Ms Ana Rita Geremias Sithole, Member of the Assembly of the Republic and Head of the Mozambique Delegation to this Assembly.

Dear Mr Eneas da Conceição Comiche, Mayor of Maputo,

Dear Co-President, colleague and friend Peter Kenilorea

Dear colleagues,

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I start my intervention by thanking Mozambique and its Parliament for receiving us in Maputo, with great sympathy, and creating the best conditions for our work.

Thank you!

I thank in particular the Mayor of Maputo, Eneas of Conceição Comiche, and in particular my friend and colleague Ana Rita Sithole and his team for their strong support and excellent cooperation in the preparation and delivery of our Assembly.

Excellencies

Since our last meeting in April this year in Strasbourg, we have seen an exponential rise in the challenges and threats we face around the world.

More than ever, we live in times of uncertainty.

The pandemic continues to stifle its effects on the world economy, war and confrontation are spreading and climate

change is increasingly causing droughts, floods and other destruction phenomena that affect people, challenge governments and increasingly demand from civil society and those who represent it more directly – Parliaments and parliamentarians.

We must overcome the battles for welcoming the battles for development and the primacy of international law, so that we can tackle global challenges.

We need to regain multilateral solidarity, from which the United Nations, the ACP/EU partnership and this African, Caribbean and Pacific/European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly are bastions, from which we can start a new cycle of trust and cooperation.

In this sense, I want to express my disappointment at the Hungaro government's blockade of the ratification of the Pos-So Agreement.

An agreement that translates a partnership between new-generation equals and in which the parliamentary dimension is strengthened.

I hope that the discussion on the topic foreseen for the Joint ACP/EU Council on 29 November in Brussels could be a step, without backsliding or return, towards the ratification of the Agreement.

In our work, which started yesterday with two important forums of debate with civil society – the Women’s Forum and the Youth Forum, and two workshops held on the ground, with important visits to health projects and risk management and reduction, we will address and deliberate on topical issues.

The Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine’s sovereign territory has been causing enormous destruction and suffering.

Direct and indirect suffering.

The war has led to disruptions in key markets such as the energy or food market.

The effects of the war are felt across the globe, with particular emphasis on addressing food shortages in the most vulnerable regions.

This will be the subject of our main debate this afternoon on the consequences of the war for food supply in OACPS countries.

The other two main discussions will focus on the fight against terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa and the new framework to address the biodiversity crisis.

Excellencies

As I have already mentioned, many of the problems we face today call for global responses.

Multilateralism and cooperation are the most appropriate way to tackle global crises such as climate change, terrorism, inequalities, poverty, disregard for human rights or the different spill-over effects of conflicts.

Parliaments, as direct representatives of citizens and as institutions close to civil society, are by definition the houses of diversity and dialogue and therefore the ideal place to strengthen and use it as part of the solution.

This Joint Parliamentary Assembly is a multilateral institution bringing together different legislators from different continents, each bringing together different experiences and mandates.

Different, but united by the belief that only together can we face this time of uncertainty with positive results, providing useful answers for people and territories.

It will be in this spirit, I am sure, that we will address in this Assembly the impacts of war, terrorism and the destruction of diversity, which I mentioned above.

At this 42 session, we will also discuss the global challenges of climate change cooperation in the context of COP27.

This is a topic of crucial importance for all our countries, and in particular for Small Island Developing States. Climate justice cannot be an empty concept. It must be a platform for rapid action to reduce and mitigate the impacts of global warming fairly.

We will also address access to the European market for products produced by the OACPS countries by strengthening sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Fair and sustainable trade is one of the key drivers of the partnership of equals we want to deliver.

Excellencies

Being in Mozambique, I can only mention the mission to assess and take note of the reality that a joint ACP/EU parliamentary delegation, to which I had the honour of chairing, carried out in Cabo Delgado in November 2021.

With the full collaboration of the country's political and administrative institutions and organisations on the ground, we were better able to continue our joint effort to find the paths to peace for the region.

We know, Mr President of the Republic, that the challenge is complex.

We recognise all the efforts that have been made.

In the European Parliament we have worked consistently with the other European institutions so that the European Union's involvement is commensurate with its political and humanitarian principles and values.

Very significant steps have been taken in this direction.

I finish.

I thank in particular my good friend, Co-President Peter Kenilorea, for our excellent teamwork and cooperation.

I know that your mandate as co-chair is coming to an end, but I would like to underline that it has been a pleasure to work with you and with your team.

As it will also be a great pleasure to work with Ana Rita Sithole, the new ACP co-chair, as of 1 January 2023.

I now take the floor with great appreciation for his excellence, Esperança Laurinda Bias, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique.