

The signing of the Non-Aggression and good neighbourliness Agreement on the banks of the Nkomati River, between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa, on 16 March 1984¹, opens up a new stage in the relations between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa.

For us it was understandable that, the way that led to the signing of the agreement, only the respect of the universally recognized principles that govern the relations among States would ensure to bring about a climate of peace which would allow the development of the economic relations between our two countries.

By enshrining these principles, governing the relations between sovereign States, regardless of their political, economic and social systems, are created the *sine qua non* conditions towards the valorisation of the geographic contiguity characterising the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa, with regard to the utilization of the infrastructures or of natural resources.

It was against this backdrop that the talks on the Cahora Bassa Scheme were held.

The Agreement we have just signed, one month after the Nkomati Agreement, is in keeping with the principles governing the relations between our States, and contributes towards the bringing about of a climate of security, stability and progress in this region of the African Continent.

The Cahora Bassa Scheme is indissolubly linked with the economies of our countries.

The Portuguese Government has also realised that only the insertion of the Cahora Bassa scheme in the economy of this region, would make viable the project, and the planning of future developments.

In this connection, its contribution to the realization of this Agreement will benefit all the concerned parties, such is worthwhile and merits to be duly hailed.

Excellencies, the Cahora Bassa scheme Agreement in its text is cognisant of the deep changes that took place in this Region, and doubtlessly, such recognition led to the creation of the conditions which ensure that the interests of the three countries are safeguarded.

The Agreement, in setting out the responsibilities which the three parties shoulder, in order to keep the scheme in operation, reveals that, more than just being mere intention, there is really an unshakeable wish to ensure it going on.

This Agreement will demand a deep commitment from the parties concerned, in its materialization.

However, we are aware that the Agreement we have signed here has enemies: those who suffer from complexes of living in equality and coexistence, those who are opposed to the creation of a climate of respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the Region and those who, wishing to impair the efforts aiming at the political, economic and social progress of the region, will seek ways of hindering the materialisation of this Agreement.

We are nevertheless hopeful that the spirit in which the talks were conducted, will enable us to overcome successfully the difficulties and the bottlenecks arising from the execution of the Agreement.

On the success of our relationship will depend other actions, especially in the field of energy, which will contribute towards the development of the region, that benefit the parties to the Agreement.

Thus concluding, I would like to reassert that you will find in the People's Republic of Mozambique, an unshakeable partner, resolutely willing to comply with the Agreement we signed a short while ago.