

**SECOND SESSION OF UGANDA-MOZAMBIQUE JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION: 15TH-19TH SEPTEMBER 2024**, **MÉSTIL HOTEL, KAMPALA**

**SENIOR OFFICIALS’ SESSION**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Amb. Richard Kabonero**

**Head Regional Economic Cooperation**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Excellency, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Mozambique,

Excellency, Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique to Uganda,

Excellency, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Mozambique,

Senior Officials from Mozambique and Uganda,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, I take this opportunity to warmly welcome our brothers and sisters from Mozambique to Uganda and to this Senior Officials’ meeting of the 2nd Session of the Uganda-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission. I thank all of you for honoring our invitation, and I also welcome my colleagues from Uganda to this meeting. We have had consultations in the last couple of weeks on the areas of cooperation, and I thank the senior officials from both countries for your efforts in preparations and convening of this JPC.

Excellences and Distinguished delegates,

Our two countries share strong historical bonds through the FRONASA and FRELIMO liberation struggles from the shackles of colonialism and bad governance in the post-colonial era, which is a strong foundation in enhancing our bilateral cooperation. Our countries re-established the bilateral relations anchored by the Joint Permanent Commission, which was initiated in 1987, and signed a cooperation framework in 2018 in Maputo that lays out the areas of cooperation and sets the pace for further bilateral engagements and collaboration.

In the same spirit of fostering enhanced and consolidated structured bilateral relations between Uganda and Mozambique, Their Excellences-our Heads of State exchanged High Level Visits, with the State Visit to Maputo of H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in 2018 and, the State Visit to Kampala of H.E President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi in 2022. Their Excellences issued a number of Directives during the State Visit, and these are at the core of our deliberations for the next couple of days at this Second Session of the Uganda-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission.

Excellences and distinguished delegates,

It is my sincere hope that the senior officials present today will appreciate this strong historical bond and recent developments in the collaborative efforts to strengthen our bilateral cooperation and find common ground to conclude more bilateral agreements. I am confident that through our enhanced bilateral ties, both countries will achieve an avalanche of economic and social advancement which we look forward to with all sincerity. We need to update each other on the progress made on the Presidential Directives and deliberate on the areas of cooperation under the two sub-committees of Political and Security and the one of Economic, resulting in concluding a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

It is our sincere hope that the convening of this Joint Permanent Commission will enable both countries to forge a robust trade and investment relationship as well.

Lastly, **Excellences and distinguished delegates**, to our Mozambican brothers and sisters who are visiting Uganda for the first time, we hope that your stay and close interaction with Ugandans will give you a peak into Uganda’s hospitable soul and a clear insight of our aspirations, commitment and purpose. You can utilize the rest day of Wednesday 18th September 2024, to explore Uganda-The Pearl of Africa!

I once again welcome you to Uganda and wish you fruitful deliberations today and rest of the days.

Obrigado ! Thank !