AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPMENT

MOZAMBIQUE COUNTRY OFFICE

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REPORT OF AfDB OPEN DAY - 2019

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY TO ACCELERATE MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

HELD ON 17 JULY 2019

Maputo, 22 July 2019

1. The African Development Bank (ADB) Open Day of 2019 under the theme "Strengthening Our Partnership with the Civil Society to Accelerate Mozambique's Economic Prosperity" occurred on the 17th of July in Maputo, Mozambique. The event was organised by the Mozambique Country Office in partnership with the Civil Society and Social Innovation Division.

2. The objective of the event was to create an opportunity for the AfDB to explore the roles of the CSOs in the achievement of the Bank's objectives. The event was a forum for exchange of information and for the Bank to obtain feedback on existing Bank funded projects from civil society organisations, as key stakeholders in the achievement of development objectives of the country. The expected outcome of the event were key follow-up actions agreed upon on the COMZ engagement with CSOs at the country level.

3. Over 30 Civil Society Organizations in the country attended the event, a balanced mixture of national and international organizations. An attempt was made to ensure that CSOs represented the various sectors that the Bank intervenes, ranging from the agriculture sector to the power sector. The panel accommodated a representative of Mozambican CSOs to provide a brief reflection of their understanding of the work done by the Bank in Mozambique and their stand in Mozambique's development. The event was also honoured with the presence of the Bank's shareholders to witness the Bank's efforts towards a stronger engagement with CSOs at the country level, these being South African Ambassador to Mozambique and the head of Cooperation for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Mozambique.

4. The Country Manager, Pietro Toigo, welcomed the participants and highlighted the Bank's increasing desire to partner with CSOs as key stakeholders that will complement its work in the development of African Nations. Mr. Pietro proceeded to introduce the Director of Special programmes to deliver the opening speech.

5. The Director of Special programmes, Mrs. Maria Mulundi's opening speech emphasized how the Bank views Civil Society Organisations as key partners in the transformation of any country's social and economic situation therefore a crucial partner in development. Therefore, the Bank is currently seeking to forge broader, deeper and more systematic and consistent engagement with CSO in the continent, in which stakeholders work together to solve societal challenges with the overarching objective of achieving greater results, promoting inclusive growth, transparency and enhancing community ownership of the projects that we fund in the countries. In this context, the Bank is working on setting a systematic mechanism for engaging with members of civil society in each country where the Bank performs its operations because it is through these partnerships and collaborative frameworks that we are all working in a space for the common good and towards achieving the same development goals as stipulated in the respective country's National Development Plan.

6. The event continued with a presentation, provided by Mr. Pietro, on the economic outlook of the African continent. This introduced the participants to the Bank's findings on macroeconomic performance and prospects by illustrating that the African economies

maintained growth momentum with an estimated average real GDP growth of 3.5% in the continent, which is higher than projected growth in other emerging markets and developing economies. The Bank advocates that regional integration for Africa's prosperity is imperative for regional integration. Although Mozambique is in debt distress (DSA), long-term sustainability has improved over past 12 months. Considering future gas revenues and FDIs showed a 17.4% increase in 2018 over 2017, reflecting increasing confidence by international investors on the back of progress on the gas projects.

7. Ms. Yolanda Arcelina, the Country Program Officer proceeded to do a presentation on the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) 2018 – 2022 and to familiarize the CSOs with the work of the Bank in Mozambique since its first funded project in the country in 1977. The presentation demonstrated that COMZ focuses on delivering 3 of the High 5s (Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa) through two pillars namely infrastructure sector and agriculture sector. There are a number of key issues that the CSP identifies these being: (i) Transparency and inclusive development; (ii) Transition to green growth; and (iii) Development of the private sector. Other matters where CSOs are considered as key stakeholders include: (i) ensuring continuous dialogue on the portfolio to eliminate the challenge that lies with the broad scope of activities; and (ii) in the dissemination and replication of good practices to achieve ambitious goals and large geographic coverage of the Bank.

8. The following session consisted of a presentation by Mrs. Njeri Kinyoho, the Senior Officer for Civil Society Engagement on the CSO Engagement Guideline which was accompanied with concrete examples. She took the participants through the history of AfDB's engagement with Civil Society which was initiated in the 1990s and has progressed over time with the year of 2019 being the landmark for the preparation of AfDB-CSE Engagement Plan 2019-2021. Mrs. Njeri demonstrated how CSE is at the core of the High 5s and that the Bank is currently adopting a new approach to mainstream CSE in its projects and policies at the corporate, country and project levels. She reaffirmed that this was because the Bank believes that CSOs have the knowledge, skills and experience that can aid the Bank to have an even greater impact in the beneficiary communities of Bank funded projects. The presentation concluded with a demonstration of the various channels through which CSOs can approach the Bank.

9. This session also counted with the participation of Ms. Paula Monjane, the Executive Director of the Learning and Training Centre for Civil Society (CESC), who provided reflective remarks on potential synergies and partnerships between the Bank and Mozambican Civil Society. These encompassed collaborative work on designing and conducting a mid-term review of the CSP, providing relevant assessment as well as social and environmental assessment on the lending done by the Bank, project implementation, M&E of the Bank funded project's impact in the communities and ultimately contribute to the transparency in the lending process during policy dialogue.

10. The discussion session allowed the various CSOs to engage with the Bank on matters of relevance to them. For instance, the Bank was asked about its role on soft components of infrastructure projects and work on mitigation and adaptation for climate change adversities.

To which the staff responded promptly on the work done in these components through the two pillars of the Mozambique CSP. The session also brought the following action points for the Bank to take in Mozambique:

10.1_ The office is to start working on collecting data in terms of CSOs specific to the sectors and cross-cutting issues that compose the strategic work of the Bank in Mozambique, aimed at assisting in the production of a DATABASE of the CSOs that are active in Mozambique. This will be sent to Ms. Njeri – Snr. Civil Society Officer;

10.2_ COMZ is to make efforts towards preparing CSOs to compete in the bidding of service providing opportunities in the Bank funded-projects.

- 10.2.1 Include trainings for CSOs in the same fashion as COMZ was planning training sessions for local business;
- 10.2.2 Ponder the possibility to include, in the project appraisals, specific activities that are to be undertaken by CSOs;

10.3_ Set up annual meetings with CSOs consisting of a full-day event that can be sectioned on themes instead of having a whole event on one meeting.

- 10.3.1 CSP review can be a part of the CSO day event as part of strengthened engagement;
- 10.3.2 The suggestion is to have the CSO open day outside of the capital (Maputo), in the provinces where the engagement with CSOs is stronger and more structured;
- 10.3.3 Next CSO Open day should have stronger media presence. It should also have the PIU explain the implementation by giving concrete examples;

10.4_ COMZ is to work towards documenting some of the experiences had with the CSOs and projects being implemented in the country.

- 10.4.1 The Civil Society Engagement Division will work towards preparing a template for country offices to report CSOs engagement;
- 10.4.2 Possible success stories will come from: (i) UniLurio, 2. Early Warning Systems, 3. AVACYEP.

11 The event concluded with a note from Mrs. Zéneb Touré, the Manager of the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division who informed the participants that Division was developing several products for enhancing the Bank's engagement with CSOs; amongst them are tools for CSO engagement in the development of Country Strategy Papers and in projects. These products will ensure that the Bank, as an African Institution, cultivates a strong and healthy relationship not only with Governments, development partners and the private sector, but also with the Civil Society organizations that are actively engaged in projects and policy-related work, with a view to contributing to the National Development Plan Objectives and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this to happen, she said, the Bank's CSOs database is being updated in each country and Mrs. Zeneb proceeded to invited the CSOs to register themselves with COMZ. Mrs. Zéneb thanked the participants for taking part in the event and expressed the Bank's willingness to further engage with CSOs in the near future.