

ART Mission visited Mozambique

Maputo, 19 March 2009 -

An ART Mission from Seville and Extremadura, from Spain, visited Mozambique from 9 March with the purpose of signing an agreement for supporting Mozambique in decentralizing through the International ART Initiative, under the Local Economic Development Process Support Programme ART-PAPDEL.

The agreement would cover the following areas:

- a) Technical and financial support to Local Economic Development Agencies

- b) Establishment of Business Hubs and Business Promotion Centres

- c) Boosting access to technology through the establishment of Agro-business, Techno-centres and machicentres

- d) Implementation of a post-graduate course in Local Economic Development

and, in addition, inclusion of Local Economic Development matters in the academic subjects of Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Sociology, Rural Development, Community Tourism and other related areas.

Thus, during their stay in Mozambique, the Seville & Extremadura ART Mission has maintained contacts with various government officials, namely the Minister of Planning, provincial governors of Gaza and Nampula, representatives from Universities and Local Economic Development Agency, development project centres, among others.

The ART initiative (Articulating Territorial and Thematic Networks for Human Development) is a UNDP-promoted international cooperation operational modality, whose working methodology involves active participation of local, national and international communities.

ART offers a programmatic framework for the government of Mozambique to partner with other United Nations Agencies, Private Sector Organisations, National and Local Governments from all over the world and the Civil Society.

ART adds most value to the relations of trust and closeness with partners, which facilitates and fosters partners' involvement in the definition of territories and budgets. It also allows for the monitoring of programme implementation, through South-South, North-South and South-North exchange visits.

For an adequate monitoring of the ART initiative, there is a high-level State Organ oversees all of its activities. This is the National Coordinating Committee (CNC) that consists of the Government of Mozambique, the United Nations Country Coordinating Office and participating donors.

In Mozambique, the ART-PAPDEL Mozambique framework-programme will have an initial duration of four years 2009 ? 2012 (Phase One). An estimated budget of US \$12 million will allow

for the implementation of the programme throughout the country, both at district and municipality levels as well as at provincial level.

The ART Seville & Estremadura Mission to Mozambique occurs within UNDP's programme in Mozambique in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Development, under the Support to Decentralised Planning and Financing Processes.