



**51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 4: General Debate**

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Delivered by Mickaël Repellin

Mr. President,

We wish to draw the attention of the Council to the crisis in the northern provinces of Mozambique in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa. Despite the recommendations accepted in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review in June 2021, the government has failed to contain the expansion of the crisis. The last months have seen an increase of attacks regionally, taking its toll on the Mozambican population. According to the International Organization for Migration, today one in three people in Cabo Delgado is internally displaced and the overall number of people displaced by the conflict now exceeds 900,000.

The emergence of this security crisis is intrinsically linked with the development of greenhouse gas emission gas projects and the related eviction of local populations from their land, which contributes to the massive internal displacement, as well as to livelihoods disruption and food insecurity. The involvement of State forces to protect the extractive activities contributes to create a climate of insecurity and violence through arbitrary arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings and our partners also confirmed that the presence of foreign troops in the province further affects the safety of civilians.

In this context, Mozambique failed to respect and protect a whole array of cultural, civil, economic, political, and social human rights including the right to life, to the security of the person, to an adequate standard of living and to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. When they arrive in camps, IDPs face further deprivations and structural problems, like in the Corrane camp in Nampula province, where more than 7,300 people currently live. With the gradual withdrawal of some international funding, the rights to health, education and water among others are under threats in the IDP camps, which exacerbates tensions with local communities.

For those who remained in Cabo Delgado, our partners reported situations where some villages are left without any humanitarian assistance, exacerbating the situation of extreme poverty in which these people live. Also, Mozambique government has been shrinking space for civil society and journalists by pushing laws restricting freedom of expression, especially about the insurgency and restricting NGOs autonomy and ability to function and even exist.

At a time when the Russian invasion of Ukraine is making the exploitation of Mozambique's gas profitable for large gas companies, and when the climate crisis is devastating Mozambique and the rest of the world, our organizations fear that the crisis will be reinforced. We therefore urge all States concerned as well as the government of Mozambique to comply with their international obligations and commitments to respect and protect the rights of the civilian population in Cabo Delgado.

I thank you.