

**57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 4: General Debate**  
**25 September 2024**

*Delivered by: Panuga Pulenthiran*  
*Check against delivery.*

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Mr. President,

We wish to draw the attention of the Council to the ongoing and worsening human rights crisis in the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa in Mozambique and the communities that continue to bear the impacts of business operations and clashes between insurgents and government forces.

More than half a million people are still displaced, and as of June 2024, more than 1.5 million people in the three provinces face dire humanitarian conditions. Many IDPs have limited access to food, shelter, water, sanitation, health and education, and are increasingly vulnerable to radicalization by extremist organizations exploiting their socio-economic marginalization.

The official narrative on the conflict in Cabo Delgado ignores these socio-economic disparities and instead defends transnational corporations that exploit natural resources at the expense of communities. It is imperative to recall the interconnected nature of the conflict in Cabo Delgado where the economic interests of transnational corporations involved in exploitation of natural resources drove thousands from their homes and forced them into the continuous crossfire between armed forces and insurgent groups.

The situation in Cabo Delgado led to more military presence, with recent reports of sexual abuse against women and children committed by government soldiers and non-States forces. We are particularly concerned about the involvement of Rwandan forces with the Mozambican army to protect private business interests over civilians, leading to amplified violence and impeded access to humanitarian aid.

Non-State armed groups continue to commit human rights abuses including attacks against civilians and widespread destruction of infrastructure which have disrupted services in conflict-affected districts.

We, therefore, urge the government of Mozambique to comply with international human rights and humanitarian law obligations to respect and protect the rights of civilians, including by regulating businesses operating in this conflict situation, to ensure they respect human rights, as well as to provide humanitarian assistance in Cabo Delgado, and call on the government to follow-up on recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on IDPs after her visit in 2023<sup>1</sup>.

I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Visit of the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons, Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, to Mozambique, November 2023, [A/HRC/56/47/Add.1](#)