

**63rd session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review – Mozambique**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

We welcome the active participation of Mozambique in its UPR with 284 recommendations accepted. However, we remain deeply concerned about the human rights and humanitarian situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to conflict in Cabo Delgado, which has been ongoing for more than a decade.

IDPs experience multiple displacements and continue lacking adequate food, clean water, education, livelihoods, and housing. The attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) have intensified and expanded to neighboring Niassa and Nampula provinces. We reiterate calls for unimpeded humanitarian access and human rights documentation, the establishment of enhanced protection systems for IDPs, children and victims of gender-based violence which should include psycho-social and health support, and the adoption of preventive measures against child recruitment by NSAGs.

Efforts to strengthen accountability for grave human rights violations should be prioritized including in the recent killing of Bishop Osório Citora Afonso, shot dead on 6 June at his residence, through reinforcement of the independence and funding to the judiciary, and accessibility for victims to it, as well as independent media and civil society monitoring.

We further call for the effective ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and for the State to take all necessary steps to advance the legislative process in that regard.

We are concerned that the Mozambique LNG project is resuming despite an unstable security situation and posing severe risks for local communities and environment. We urge Mozambique to strengthen human rights safeguards for transnational corporations' activities beyond the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights to ensure human rights compliance and effective legal accountability.

We thank you.