



**Presentation by the Forum of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (FMMRPU) at the 52nd Pre-Session of the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to the Republic of Mozambique**

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**GENEVA, 10 FEBRUARY 2026**

This statement is delivered on behalf of the **Forum of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (FMMRPU)** , a national platform founded in 2020 that brings together 152 national and international civil society organizations dedicated to the promotion, monitoring and defense of human rights in Mozambique.

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The methodology adopted combines primary and secondary sources, broad and inclusive public consultation sessions involving a total of 135 civil society organizations from all over the county, systematic desk analysis, and subsequent validation by stakeholders in a national seminar.

# Statement plan

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- I. Electoral transparency
- II. Post-electoral Violence
- III. Violent extremism and humanitarian situation in Cabo-Delgado
- IV. National Inclusive Dialogue.
- V. General recommendations

# ISSUE I: **Electoral transparency**

## *Previous recommendations*

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- ❑ Electoral transparency in Mozambique has been recommended since the first UPR in 2011 and reinforced in the third cycle in 2021

## *Developments*

- ❑ The recent electoral processes (2024), including the 2023 local elections, have been marred by allegations of irregularities, such as match-fixing and obstruction of independent observers.
- ❑ Law No. 7/2018 on the Election of Local Government Bodies lacks robust oversight mechanisms by citizens.
- ❑ Trust in Mozambique's electoral institutions remains weakened due to persistent perceptions of political influence, recurrent irregularities, limited transparency, and weak accountability mechanisms.
- ❑ Civil-society participation is constrained by shrinking civic space, insufficient voter-education initiatives, unequal media access, and insecurity in conflict-affected regions

# Recommendations

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We recommend the Mozambican authorities the following:

- Strengthen the independence and transparency of electoral institutions;
- Ensure impartial and timely resolution of electoral complaints;
- Protect civic space and the work of civil-society organizations;
- Institutionalize national electoral observation with the full participation of civil society.

# ISSUE II: **Post-electoral Violence**

## *Previous recommendations*

- ❑ This topic was raised and recommended since the second cycle but no positive developments has been reported

## *Developments*

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- ❑ The Post-election violence has manifested itself through political persecution, arbitrary detentions, repression of demonstrations and intimidation of opponents
- ❑ During the 2023 municipal elections, several cities recorded serious episodes of violence, including the killing of at least three people—among them a 10-year-old child—and the use of live ammunition, rubber bullets, and tear gas against protesters contesting the announced results.
- ❑ Thousands faced arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment, and more than 400 individuals fled to neighboring countries due to the violence.
- ❑ The 2024 presidential and general elections further deepened this pattern. National and international civil-society organizations documented serious irregularities throughout the electoral process, triggering widespread post-election violence across multiple provinces.
- ❑ Monitoring networks recorded *more than 400 incidents involving violence, injuries, or deaths*, including excessive use of force by security actors, politically motivated assaults, intimidation of opposition supporters, and the violent dispersal of peaceful demonstrations.

# Recommendations

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We recommend the Mozambican authorities the following:

- Strengthen the Independence and Integrity of Electoral Institutions
- Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Electoral Processes
- Ensure Effective Investigation and Resolution of Electoral-Related Violations.
- Establish Prevention, Response, and Reparation Mechanisms for Electoral-Related Violence
- Protect Civic Space and the Work of Civil-Society Organizations
- Guarantee Equal Access to Media and Freedom of Expression

# ISSUE III: **Violent extremism and humanitarian situation in Cabo-Delgado**

## *Previous recommendations*

Many recommendations were made to Mozambique during the third cycle in 2021

## *Developments*

More than 1 million Internally Displaced People

6,017 total fatalities **since** 1 October 2017 that include Civilians, State security forces, Non-state armed groups (including IS-Mozambique) and Other actors involved in the conflict

The response has been predominantly military, resulting in serious negative impacts on civilians and displaced communities, including civilian casualties, destruction of homes and livelihoods, forced displacement, restricted humanitarian access, and reports of arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment during security operations.

The absence of a National Radicalization Prevention Policy violates the commitments made by Mozambique under the SADC Regional Strategy for the Prevention of Violent Extremism

# Recommendations

We recommend the Mozambican authorities the following:

- Adopt a multidimensional approach, combining security, development, community dialogue and prevention of radicalization.

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- Implement civic education, interfaith dialogue and youth inclusion programs in at-risk areas, with a focus on preventing radicalization.
- Integrate religious, traditional and youth leaders into peacebuilding and violence prevention processes.
- Ensure safe and continuous humanitarian access to displaced and affected populations, with respect for the principles of neutrality and impartiality.
- Investigate and punish abuses by security forces, including arbitrary detentions, torture, and extrajudicial killings.
- Integrate Cabo Delgado into UN thematic reports on forced displacement, human security, and the protection of civilians.

# ISSUE IV: National Inclusive Dialogue

## *Previous recommendations*

- ❑ Topic XXVI. Right to participate in public affairs and voting rights plus the following recommendations: 149.105; 149.69; 149.70; 149.134; 149.122; 149.123; 149.124; 149.128 (Doc. A/HR/48/Add.1)

## *Developments*

- ❑ The National Inclusive Dialogue (NID) process, which began in 2024 and intensified in 2025, has a result of the political unrest in line with electoral transparency and Post-Electoral Violence in 2024 and 2025,
- ❑ The NID is aligned with articles 43, 48 and 271 of the Constitution, which enshrine the right to political participation, information and decentralization.
- ❑ It is also in line with the commitments made by Mozambique under the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and with the SDGs.

# Recommendations

We recommend the Mozambican authorities the following:\_\_\_\_\_

- Strengthening electoral transparency and institutional integrity.
- Protection of human rights defenders and vulnerable populations.
- Reform of the justice system and fight against institutional violence.
- Integration of international recommendations into national and local levels.

# General Recommendations to the Mozambican State

Mozambique faces structural challenges in consolidating human rights promotion and protection, aggravated by territorial inequalities, institutional weaknesses, climate crises, and insecurity.

We recommend the Mozambican authorities the following:

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- Integrate UPR recommendations into national, provincial and district plans, with measurable indicators and a dedicated budget.
- Strengthen the protection of human rights defenders, with specific legislation and rapid response mechanisms.
- Promote the decentralization of public policies, with a focus on vulnerable groups and risk zones.
- Strengthen international cooperation and dialogue with UN mechanisms, ensuring transparency and political commitment.
- Promote an environment conducive to the flourishing of society and opening the civic space for the promotion of active citizenship.