

**STATEMENT**  
**52nd UPR Pre-session**  
**Republic of Mozambique – Geneva, 10 February 2026**  
**Presented by: KULIMA – Organization for Integrated Socio-Economic Development**

**1. Presentation of the Organization**

This statement is submitted on behalf of KULIMA – Organization for Integrated Socio-Economic Development, a Mozambican non-governmental organization founded in 1984 and legally recognized in 1995. For over four decades, KULIMA has worked in rural and peri-urban communities to promote human rights, education, health, gender equality, livelihoods, and humanitarian response. We also actively monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations.

**2. National Consultation**

In this cycle, no specific national consultation was conducted under the UPR framework.

**3. Outline of the Statement**

Our intervention focuses on four key thematic areas: education and health, gender-based violence, access to justice and civic space.

**4. Thematic Issues**

**I. Right to Education and Right to Health**

**A. Follow-up on Recommendations from Previous Cycles**

In previous UPR cycles, Mozambique received 64 recommendations on education and 45 on health, all formally accepted.

**B. Developments Since the Last Review**

Some progress has been recorded. Primary school enrollment has increased, gender disparities have been reduced, and public spending on education remains at around 6% of GDP. In health, vaccination, maternal and child care, and the prevention of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria have been strengthened.

However, major challenges persist. Around 3 million children remain out of school, especially in rural areas. In Cabo Delgado, conflict has damaged or destroyed hundreds of schools, with more than 1,100 classrooms inoperable.

Access to health services remains limited due to shortages of professionals, lack of medicines, and long distances, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

**C. Recommendations**

We recommend that the Government of Mozambique:

- a. Rehabilitate schools and health facilities in conflict- and disaster-affected areas, with clear plans and timelines;

- b. Reduce school exclusion and improve health access through targeted social support and the elimination of indirect costs;
- c. Strengthen the training and deployment of teachers and health professionals, especially in rural areas;
- d. Increase sustainable financing for education and health, prioritizing underserved regions;

## **II. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

### **A. Follow-up on Previous Recommendations**

During the 3rd UPR cycle, Mozambique received 27 recommendations on gender-based violence.

### **B. Developments Since the Last Review**

Despite legal and institutional progress, including the implementation of Law No. 29/2009, the Family Law, and the Law on Child and Forced Marriages, gender-based violence remains widespread. In 2024, more than 20,000 cases were recorded. In 2025, over 13,000 cases were reported by the third quarter.

### **C. Recommendations**

We recommend that the Government of Mozambique:

- a. Ensure sustainable funding and strengthen integrated support services for survivors in all provinces;
- b. Improve coordination among health, justice, police, and social sectors, with effective referral and protection mechanisms.

## **III. Access to Justice**

### **A. Follow-up on Previous Recommendations**

Mozambique received 61 recommendations on access to justice, all accepted.

### **B. Developments Since the Last Review**

KULIMA's monitoring between 2023 and 2024 in Cabo Delgado, Zambézia, and Nampula confirms persistent barriers, including high indirect costs, procedural delays, and low public trust in justice institutions. We documented cases of widows denied inheritance, survivors of domestic violence without judicial follow-up, and youth excluded from formal justice mechanisms. Between 2023 and 2024, KULIMA community activists documented around three hundred dozens (approximately 3,000) cases in these provinces, in which families were unable to pursue legal claims due to high costs, long delays, and lack of institutional support.

These cases reflect broader structural barriers faced by vulnerable communities, including limited access to legal information, high indirect costs related to transportation and informal fees, prolonged procedural delays, and weak institutional responses. As a result, many women, youth, and low-income families are forced to abandon formal procedures and resort to informal forums without legal guarantees, reinforcing cycles of injustice and exclusion.

## **Recommendations**

We recommend that the Government of Mozambique:

- a. Strengthen the presence and capacity of justice institutions at district level, particularly in rural and remote areas, through improved staffing, infrastructure, and logistics;
- b. Expand free legal aid and community legal education programs, in partnership with civil society, ensuring regular access for women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

## **IV. Civic Space**

### **A. Follow-up on Previous Recommendations**

During the 3rd UPR cycle, Mozambique received 12 recommendations on civic space.

### **B. Developments Since the Last Review**

Between 2021 and 2025, civic space in Mozambique deteriorated significantly, marked by political violence and increasing administrative restrictions. Following the post-electoral protests that began in October 2024 and continued until March 2025, Plataforma Decide reported 411 deaths and 7,200 arrests.

According to its report “*Scars of Democracy in Mozambique: Human Impacts and Failures of Protection in Post-Electoral Protests (2024–2025)*”, 3,700 people were injured, including more than 900 by gunfire, and five people were reported missing.

These events were accompanied by widespread intimidation of activists and journalists and by the absence of public investigations, judicial accountability, and adequate reparations for victims, contributing to a climate of fear, undermining trust in institutions, and discouraging civic participation.

In January 2026, KULIMA was prevented from implementing an approved youth project in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado, illustrating growing restrictions.

### **C. Recommendations**

We recommend that the Government of Mozambique:

- a. Ensure respect for freedom of assembly and civic participation, including transparent investigations and accountability for post-electoral violence;
- b. Prevent arbitrary administrative restrictions on civil society activities and promote regular dialogue with civil society, particularly in northern and conflict-affected regions.