



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

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**INTERVENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**ON THE**

**AGENDA ITEM 84: THE RULE OF LAW AT NATIONAL  
AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

**DURING THE 77th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEY YORK, OCTOBER 2022**

## **Mr. Chairman**

We have enrolled to speak on this topic to reiterate Mozambique's commitment and support to the primacy and need for the prevalence of the Rule of Law, at national and international levels.

We express Mozambique's alignment with the positions of the African Group (AG) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on this issue.

As stated in the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations contained in document A/77/213<sup>1</sup>, the challenges to the rule of law remain on almost all fronts and require joint and equally resilient responses, in defense of a multilateral system based on rules and principles generally accepted by the actors of the international system, in their mutual relations.

In this context, we follow with attention and keen interest the elaboration, in consultation with Member States, of a new United Nations Vision proposing the renewal of the social contract, anchored in the promotion of human rights and putting people at the center of governance and justice, and in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal Number 16, following the Strategic Action Plan presented in the Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda", contained in the document with reference A/75/982<sup>2</sup>.

We share the vision of renewing the social contract in the sense of its continuous and progressive reinforcement, strengthening

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<sup>1</sup> [A/77/213](#)

<sup>2</sup> [A/75/982](#)

the law and the guarantor institutions at national and international levels, including the necessary will and commitment of States, as well as the strengthening of international cooperation.

Emphasizing the link between the Rule of Law and the three pillars of the United Nations, namely International Peace and Security; Human Rights; and, Development, we reiterate our support for the principle of peaceful resolution of conflicts/litigation, a fundamental principle of International Law, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mozambique reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, whoever commits it, wherever and for whatever purpose it is committed, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Mozambique has, since 2017, been a direct victim of this threat which seeks to jeopardise the development and consolidation of its social contract and the rule of law.

On human rights, Mozambique also advocates their universal and indivisible nature as fundamental values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Additionally, and as mentioned above about the renewal of the social contract, we understand that the construction of the Rule of Law is a continuous and progressive process, which must privilege the appropriation and strengthening of national institutions, also respecting cultural and religious specificities, without prejudice to those fundamental values and principles.

The economic development of States, and in particular developing States, faces serious challenges, firstly linked to the pandemic of COVID-19, to which is added the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine, requiring a renewed collective response, including for the success of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, we are concerned about the worsening of the international economic situation, which may condition the effective functioning of justice systems in different States, and may create pockets of instability that can be exploited by radical or terrorist movements.

Notwithstanding the above challenges, Mozambique welcomes the ongoing work being undertaken by the United Nations, Member States and the international justice system to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels, showing particular interest in learning about the experience of community integration projects for former members of non-state armed groups.

### **Mr. Chairman**

The process of consolidation of the Rule of Law in Mozambique continues on track. The peace process involving the Government and the largest Mozambican opposition party is moving towards its successful conclusion later this year, with the completion of the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process of the last former guerrillas.

Despite the terrorist attacks in some areas of Cabo-Delgado, Niassa and Nampula Provinces in Northern Mozambique, access to justice continues on an upward curve, including updating

legislation and extending legal aid services to citizens in need, with special attention to the most vulnerable groups.

With regard to strengthening the integrity of the Public Administration and combating corruption, we reiterate our commitment to continue fighting and strengthening measures to eradicate this evil. Mozambique is also Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

In the prevention and fight against crime, we highlight the increase of the police force and the strengthening of its operativity. The crime of kidnapping and its significant human, socio-economic impact is a particular challenge for Mozambique, and specific actions are underway to mitigate its causes and combat it, including international cooperation.

In the fight against international terrorism in Mozambique, the Mozambican armed forces and those of international partners have fulfilled their obligation to respect human rights. Even before this phenomenon, Mozambique has consistently and effectively participated in the universal periodic review process in order to advance the protection and promotion of human rights.

Regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the justice sector, the measures that the Government had to impose have created a number of challenges in the system, such as drastic limitation of visits to detainees, reduced availability of legal aid and suspension and delay of procedural deadlines.

To address the overcrowding in prisons, an amnesty and pardon law was enacted and parole applications were

expedited. As a result, some 5,600 prisoners, mostly minor offenders, were released, reducing the occupancy rate of the prisons.

The use of technology to promote access to justice is still limited in Mozambique, but we recognise its importance as a tool that can make a huge contribution towards the attainment of this objective.

Taking advantage of the context of constraints created by the pandemic, cooperation and exchange of experiences between member states and with the United Nations should continue in this area and in others such as the adjustment of legislation, judicial sponsorship and improvement of prison infrastructure.

We conclude our statement by expressing our expectations on and welcoming the forthcoming launch of the new United Nations Vision on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, which represents a major contribution to the work carried out by this Committee.

**I thank you very much.**