

4



Statement

H. E. Mrs. Frances Rodrigues

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Mozambique**

to the United Nations Office in Geneva

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Universal Periodic Review of Finland**

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Thank you Madame Chairperson for giving me the floor,

I would like to join previous speakers in welcoming H.E. Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development of Finland and her delegation to their country's Second UPR. I congratulate Finland for the comprehensive Report on Human Rights, which is a Report that captures in the most objective way the actions by the Government of Finland in the furtherance of the enjoyment of Human Rights.

Finland is one among the closest partners of Mozambique. We cooperate in many fields, including the area of Human Rights. Actually, the promotion of Human Rights is part and parcel of the Finnish policy on development cooperation.

Mozambique commends Finland for the extent of the implementation of the recommendations that emanated from the last UPR, and for the objective information on those recommendations that are still

in the process

in the process of implementation. In fact, Finland had the virtue of submitting a voluntary intermediary report on the implementation of these recommendations.

Recently, the Finnish Government held discussions on the first Finnish National Human Rights Action Plan. It is a very innovative plan which among other things foresaw the establishment of the Human Rights Centre as an autonomous and independent institution.

Finland has put in place strong policies and Government actions that have created significant impact in upholding the rights of the Child and the Elderly, in promoting gender equality and in supporting the rights of the minorities and the disadvantaged. These policies have included the refinement of measures against Human Trafficking leading to the preparation of a project on a special Act on Human Trafficking.

I wish to congratulate the Government of Finland for actions taken in the context of the domestication of Human Rights related Conventions, namely the

Optional Protocol

Optional Protocol to the United Nations on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Finland policies on Roma including campaigns to eradicate negative stereotypes and prejudice against the Roma deserve our recognition and encouragement.

Mozambique acclaims Finland for its decision to initiate Reforms of the Legislation against discrimination and encourages the Government to expedite the processes which will lead to its early conclusion.

**Regarding Finland policies towards the integration
of migrants,**

of migrants, we encourage the Government to continue with its commitments under the new Act on the promotion of Integration.

We also encourage Finland to carry on with its decision to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

I thank you!

