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Statement by Mr. Elias ZIMBA, Minister Plenipotentiary

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - UPR OF THE UK
24 May 2012

Thank you Madame President for giving me the floor,

Allow me at the outset to express my delegations warm welcome to Right Honourable Lord McNally, Minister of State for Justice and his delegation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). I would like to congratulate the Government of UK for a well-crafted Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the United Kingdom.

Mozambique commends the UK for the degree of implementation of the recommendations that came out from the last UPR, which ultimately contributed to widening of the basis for the enjoyment of Human Rights by the British people.

My Country appreciates the fact that the United Kingdom and Mozambique maintain a long history of partnership and cooperation in many spheres, including a fruitful collaboration in the field of Human Rights.

UK continues to display unquestionable efforts in upholding the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as it continually updates its legislation in order to adjust it to new demands and requirements.

Such approach has resulted in the strengthening of the rights of the child, gender equality, freedom of expression, of association and of peaceful assembly, and the rights of the detainees, among others.

UK commitment to foster Human Rights is also visible at the level of European institutions.

My delegation congratulates the Government of UK for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Furthermore, the UK established a Government Strategy aimed at addressing human trafficking. We also note with satisfaction that UK has ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

The fact that UK decided to withdraw its reservations to the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, dealing with refugee children and children in custody with adults, is highly encouraging.

We welcome UK stated decision to sign the Convention against Enforced Disappearances. Conversely, we note with appreciation that the Government

has implemented the majority of the provisions of the Equality Act, and we express our encouragement for the implementation in their entirety.

We strongly encourage UK, as officially stated, to pursue the target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income on development cooperation and assistance by 2013, in the context of the promotion of the right to development.

I thank you!