

MISSÃO PERMANENTE DA
REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
JUNTO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS

GENEVA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

GENEVA

**Statement by H.E. Pedro Comissário, Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the
United Nations Office in Geneva and other
International Organizations, at the 23rd Session of the
UPR Working Group on Australia
Geneva, 9th November 2015**

Mr. President!

Mozambique thanks Mr. **John Reid**, First Assistant Secretary for International Law and Human Rights Division of the Attorney General's Department of Australia and his distinguished delegation, for the presentation of their country's comprehensive report to the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Mozambique welcomes the strides Australia has made in the implementation of the 137 accepted or accepted-in-part recommendations of the previous UPR's cycle.

Such progresses translate, on indigenous Australians, in part, into:

- The preparations for the holding of a Constitutional referendum to recognize the Indigenous Australians in the Constitution, before 2017;

- The setting up of a parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
- The establishment of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council, which provides policy advice to the Prime-Minister on the Indigenous Affairs;
- The Indigenous Advancement Strategy, whose fund aims at addressing the need for strategic grant funding for local solutions.

On the people with disability, it is noteworthy the National Disability Strategy and the National Insurance Scheme, which are in line with the relevant human rights' Convention on the matter.

While noting the ongoing consultations in the country, on whether to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, Mozambique would recommend Australia to speed up this process, in the hope that the country ratifies this important instrument for the protection and promotion of human rights.

To conclude, Mr. President, Mozambique wishes Australia every success in the present UPR exercise.

I thank you

Geneva, 9th November 2015