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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 Ruanda
Geneva, 4th November 2015**

Mr President!

I welcome HE Mr. **Johnston Busingye**, Minister of Justice of Ruanda and his delegation on the occasion of the submission of their country's report to the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Ruanda is a country of resilience in many ways. Her recovery from the devastating genocide, in 1994, is an unparalleled case in Africa. Notwithstanding the traumas of genocide, Ruanda has been doing her level best to comply with international obligations, inter alia on the protection and promotion of human rights.

I, therefore, congratulate Ruanda for having implemented 63, out of 67 accepted recommendations from the 1st UPR cycle. Such achievement translates, in part, into:

1. Welcoming of the independent expert on minority rights, special rapporteur on adequate housing and the special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association;

2. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

On the other side, I take note of the draft of the National Human Rights Plan of Action and its accompanying policy, which aim at ensuring an holistic and human rights based approach to all aspects of development in the country.

On the prison and detention conditions, I hail the extension of the use of community service as alternative to imprisonment to other crimes, apart from genocide, for it contributes to addressing the issue of penitentiary center's overcrowding.

On gender and gender equality issues, Ruanda leads by example: 63% of parliamentarians are women; 40% of the Cabinet's members are also women. Furthermore, the country has made progresses in the efforts towards eradicating gender based violence, through the adoption of the Comprehensive Gender -Based Violence Policy.

On the right to health, Ruanda should be saluted for having achieved the MDG goal for reduction of child mortality, from 52 deaths per 1000 live births, to 34 deaths per 1000 live births, thanks to an intensive immunization campaign. This achievement is coupled with the increase in the life expectancy rate, from 49 years, in 1994, to the current 64 years.

To conclude, Mr. President, I urge Ruanda to conclude the implementation of the remaining 4 recommendations from the previous Cycle and endeavor to commit to the recommendations expected from the current UPR process.

I wish Ruanda every success in the present UPR exercise.

I thank you

Geneva, 4th November 2015