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Human Rights Council  
24<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Mozambique

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

19 January 2016

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Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Mozambique to the Human Rights Council, and notes encouraging developments in Mozambique since its last UPR, including the recent announcement that it has been declared free of landmines and is working to complete destruction of its cluster munitions stockpiles.

New Zealand **commends** Mozambique on the improvements in the security environment since the civil war. However, as conflict continues between government forces and RENAMO insurgents, we **recommend** Mozambique take steps to prioritise the protection of civilians through building the capacity of law enforcement and targeted training to improve public order and security in affected areas.

New Zealand welcomes Mozambique's commitment to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. New Zealand **recommends** that Mozambique become party to and implement these instruments as soon as possible

We welcome the efforts of Mozambique to strengthen its human rights framework by becoming party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and enacting the new Penal Code and the Access to Information Bill. With respect to the Convention against Torture, New Zealand **recommends** that Mozambique ensure the elimination of human rights abuses against prisoners and detainees, and to bring to justice those responsible for committing these offences and ensure redress for victims.

Thank you Mr President