



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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UPR of MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. President,

Slovenia is pleased to note that Mozambique had adopted a new Penal Code, criminalizing, among other, various forms of sexual violence and abuse, and had established a legal and policy framework against gender-based violence. We therefore consider our past recommendations no. 89.25<sup>1</sup> and 90.21<sup>2</sup> to have been implemented. We furthermore welcome the removal of measures against people committing "vices against nature" from the Penal Code.

However, according to reports, gender-based violence and sexual abuse of children persist and are still seldom reported, while rates of child marriage, adolescent pregnancies and HIV infections remain alarming. We also regret reports about excessive use of force by the police, arbitrary arrests and prolonged pretrial detention, and use of defamation laws to restrict freedom of expression.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

- ensure that all girls, including pregnant girls and young mothers, can complete minimum levels of education in a safe environment;
- ensure that all women have access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, including comprehensive sexuality education and modern contraceptive methods;
- establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years old, and introduce mechanisms to reduce the incidence of child marriage;
- prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> 89.25. Ensure that violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence, as well as to ensure the prosecution, punishment and rehabilitation of perpetrators, and the protection and access to immediate means of redress for victims of violence

<sup>2</sup> 90.21. Amend existing law by incorporating sexual offences against children, including forced sexual relations and sexual exploitation