

Human Rights Council
UPR 24rd Session of the UPR working group,
Review of Mozambique
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the delegation of Mozambique and thanks it for its presentation today.

We commend Mozambique for progress made to promote human rights since its first UPR. This includes ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, adoption of a law on information, a new penal code, legalizing abortion and decriminalizing homosexuality, and steps to prevent child, early and forced marriage. We welcome the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman, and would be interested to learn how Mozambique intends to ensure that the institutions become fully operational in line with the stated intentions.

While we welcome these steps, attention needs also to be directed to the independence and impartiality of the judiciary to ensure rule of law.

Denmark therefore recommends that Mozambique includes measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary in the constitutional review currently under consideration.

Another concern relates to the continued overcrowding in prisons, resulting inter alia from backlogs and delays in charging and sentencing detainees.

Denmark recommends that Mozambique increases the efficiency of tribunals against agreed targets including through education and employment of qualified judicial personnel.

Thank you, Mr. President.