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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Mozambique

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes Mozambique’s progress in recent years on human rights issues. **Australia recommends that Mozambique ratifies the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**

Mozambique accepted recommendations from its first cycle UPR to ensure prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into cases of arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment by the police. However, Australia is concerned that there are continuing reports of such human rights violations and, in the majority of cases, the perpetrators have not been brought to justice. **Australia recommends that Mozambique ensures that all allegations of such violations are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated.**

Noting that corruption is a serious issue in Mozambique, **Australia recommends Mozambique fully resource the Office for Combating Corruption to ensure it is able to investigate and prosecute these crimes.**

While we recognise same sex sexual activity between consenting adults has been decriminalised, there are no specific protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. **Australia recommends that Mozambique revise laws to expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.**