

UN Human Rights Council 24th Session of the UPR Working Group 2nd Cycle Review of Mozambique, 19 January 2016

Statement by AUSTRIA

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Austria welcomes H.E and the Delegation of Mozambique and thanks them for the presentation of the national report. We note with appreciation the positive steps taken by Mozambique since its last UPR review to promote and protect human rights.

We would like to commend the Government for the efforts it has taken to improve the administration of justice including by approving the New Penal Code as well as by creating a National Human Rights Commission and an Ombudsman Office. However, despite these positive developments, the justice system continues to register high rates of procedural delays, which has implications such as the overcrowding of prisons with disastrous consequences for the rehabilitation of prisoners, violation of terms and rights of pre-trial detainees and deterioration of prison conditions.

We also remain particularly concerned by allegations of arbitrary arrests and detention, excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment by members of the police and prison guards and by the pattern of impunity that exists for these abuses.

Following up on the first cycle, Austria would like to offer the following recommendations:

- 1) Carry out prompt, thorough, and impartial investigations into cases of arbitrary arrest and detention and ensure that all police officers found responsible for human rights violations are subjected to disciplinary and criminal proceedings as appropriate, in line with accepted recommendations from the previous review;
- 2) Promote continuous and regular training programs for judicial and public magistrates, and allocate sufficient resources to improve working conditions.
- 3) Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC

I thank you