**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

38th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Mozambique***

4 May 2021

Mme President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the delegation of Mozambique and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria commends Mozambique for the progress that has been made in enhancing its legislative, institutional and policy framework for protection of human rights since the second UPR.

We acknowledge the participation of Mozambique in the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative aiming at the elimination of violence against girls and women. Bulgaria notes with appreciation the adoption of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the period of 2018-2022.

We recognise that the overall human rights situation in the country remains challenging and has even deteriorated in the last years as a result of the security and humanitarian crisis in the north-eastern districts of Cabo Delgado Province, where many people face displacement and severe hunger.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Mozambique:

1. Develop, in partnership with the international community, a counterterrorism plan in line with the international law and the international human rights standards;
2. Ensure that the protection from gender-based and domestic violence is an integral part of national responses to pandemics and other emergencies and prioritise supporting women and girls who are at the greatest risk of different types of gender-based violence.
3. Ensure that the right to freedom of expression and freedom of press is respected, including in the internet space and maintain a positive environment for the work of independent media and journalists.

We wish the Delegation of Mozambique a successful review!

Thank you!