**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 38th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Mozambique**

**Statement by Australia**

**4 May 2021**

Australia recognises the challenges that Mozambique faces in combating terrorism, and in responding to humanitarian and natural disasters.

We welcome continued collaboration with international partners to combat extremism, radicalisation, terrorism, and organised crime, and urge Mozambique to ensure human rights are fully protected in this process.

Australia remains particularly concerned about continued reports of enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, unlawful killings, and child marriage. Similarly concerning are reports that journalists have been silenced, intimidated or expelled for reporting on contentious political issues.

**Australia recommends that Mozambique:**

1. **Continue efforts to counter extremist activity within its territory, while protecting the human rights of civilians.**
2. **Conduct immediate, thorough and impartial investigations into allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and excessive use of force by security services.**
3. **End child marriage practices, including by ensuring enforcement of the *Law to Prevent and Combat Premature Unions (2019)*.**
4. **Take all necessary steps through the law and government policy to ensure protection and promotion of freedom of expression, including the robust implementation of Article 48 of its Constitution.**