

Statement at 48th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**Item 6: UPR Outcome Mozambique****Speaker: Adriana Nhancale**

Madame President,

This is a joint statement¹. We note with satisfaction Mozambique's acceptance of several recommendations aimed at protecting freedom of expression and peaceful demonstrations, calling on the State to revisit the legal framework governing the civil society sector and ensure the National Human Rights Commission has sufficient resources, personnel and a clear mandate to carry out its work in line with the Paris Principles.

Nonetheless, we remain concerned that human rights defenders facing particular risks are subjected to various forms of harassment, intimidation and threats.

Indeed, since January 2019, woman human rights defender Fátima Mimbire, working for the Centre for Public Integrity's (CIP), has been the victim of a smear campaign and intimidation through social media in an attempt to further delegitimize her work when asking the government to repay loans it acquired illegally and secretly.

Therefore, we further call on Mozambique to:

- Develop and enact specific laws and policies to recognise and protect the work of human rights defenders giving full force and effect to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders at the national level;
- Combat impunity by ensuring the prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of all violations against defenders, the prosecution of perpetrators, and access to effective remedies for victims;
- Adopt and implement the changes to the 1991 Law of Association suggested by UNDP since 2008 to ensure that the law no longer restricts the rights and activities of civil society associations;

I thank you.

¹ International Service for Human Rights and Center for Democracy and Development