



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

**SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY HELENA MATEUS KIDA,  
THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, FOR THE 30th SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE**

**Vienna, May 2021**

- **Your Excellency the President;**
- **Your Excellencies the Ministers;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. It is with the greatest honor that I am once again speaking in this Forum and for that I shall begin by joining myself to the previous speakers to, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique, on my own behalf and the delegation accompanying me, congratulate and thank the People and the Government of Vienna – Austria, for hosting the 30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, especially at a time when all States are determined to eradicate the Covid-19 pandemic, thus allowing us to jointly address this important issue for our States, through the sharing of experiences

### **Your Excellencies**

2. Mozambique is currently experiencing a situation that deserves special attention at external level due to terrorist attacks occurring specifically in some districts located in the north of Cabo Delgado Province, and as a consequence it is

estimated that more than two thousand people lost their lives and over five hundred thousand are displaced in the various provinces of the country, with destruction of properties, public and social infrastructures, an unspecified number of people missing and more than thirty thousand children were prevented from studying.

3. This event embodies several phenomena that include illegal migration, drug and arms trafficking, money laundering with the view of financing terrorism, which is *organized crime*.
4. Therefore, recognizing the importance of international cooperation, as well as the need to adopt concrete measures to tackle these and other problems related to crime and criminal justice, Mozambique carried out a series of actions as for instance at the SADC region and African Union level where it is cooperation with member countries in areas such as staff training, information exchange and joint operations to

dismantle trafficking networks, as well as fight against maritime piracy.

**Your Excellencies,**

5. The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique stipulates in its Article 84 the right to free choice of profession and forced labor is prohibited. However, some forms of violations have been linked to crimes such as human trafficking, where victims have been children, girls and teenagers from rural areas which are attracted in various ways, often with the complicity of family members.
  
6. It is in this context that within the framework of the fight against trafficking in persons, Mozambique has been carrying out several important actions within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocols against Trafficking in Persons, especially

Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants) having approved in 2008 the Act nu 6/2008, of July 9, taming the Palermo Protocol.

7. In an effort to ensure efficient implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Act above mentioned, its review is underway under the guidance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which supports the Government in the fight against organized crime, drugs and terrorism, providing technical and legislative assistance by preparing proposals required by the international law.

8. In the scope of the reforms of the Justice Administration System, Mozambique recently approved several legislative packages with emphasis on the Code of Criminal Procedure, Penal Code, Enforcement of Penal Code and Non Custodial Measures and other legislation, establishing the institutional strengthening of powers of the Courts and the Public

Prosecution giving a new impetus to the promotion and protection of human rights, countering impunity associated with corruption. As an example, the new Penal Code provides for severe punishments of any and all criminal practices related to kidnapping and human trafficking, without distinction.

**Your Excellencies;**

9. In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to address words of appreciations and gratitude to all States and cooperation partners who, without sparing efforts, have been cooperating permanently in training, capacity building and exchange of information with our officers on matters related to crime prevention and criminal justice, and to invite them to continue helping Mozambique both in human resources trainings and working means, as well as in new techniques and strategies to counter terrorism.

**Thank you very much for your attention!**