



**Dear Committee members:**

This presentation is the result of joint work between Ipas Mozambique, an international organization with offices in Mozambique focused on expanding access to safe abortion and contraceptive care, AESA - Association for Education, Health, Environment and Social Communication, Mozambican NGO founded in 2008 and KULIMA, a Mozambican organization dedicated to integrated socio-economic development.

The Mozambican state has made great strides in the defense, protection and promotion of human rights in all spheres of political, economic and social life, without discrimination of any kind by ratifying several fundamental treaties for the protection of human rights.

We believe that the Mozambican state needs to ratify more fundamental treaties to increase the protection of human rights, such as: The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - ICESCR and the International Convention for the Protection of All People against Forced Disappearance - ICPPED.

To this end, as part of this year's UPR process, we have drawn up an advocacy action plan for ratifying the instruments above which the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs and the main partner, for having shown interest when presenting the joint document developed by our organizations on the UPR.

**About the Reflection Point**

In Mozambique, under the 1997 Land Law, land is owned by the state. However, local communities that occupy land acquire the right to use the land (the right called "DUAT") in accordance with customary rules and practices. The law also provides that local communities must participate in the management of natural resources, in the resolution of conflicts, in the titling process and in the identification and definition of the limits of the lands that the community occupies.

For rural communities, land occupation and exploitation are vital to their food security, as almost 70% of the population depends on this activity. Thus, the participation of these communities in the process of formulating policies for the distribution and use of land is essential for the effective protection of their rights to food. However, this right is threatened by the current process of distribution and use of land, lacking the active participation of the Peasants.

**It is noticed that:**

- Rural communities are not properly informed about their rights to participate in the consultation process.
- There is no guarantee that civil society organizations and rural communities will effectively participate in the legislative review process at the national level.
- Investments are often made without the consent of the communities due to consultations made without the community being properly informed and their rights respected.



**It is recommended:**

- Speed up the process of revising the 1997 Land Law to better protect the right to use the land;
- Take legal and technical measures to facilitate the effective participation of rural communities and civil society organizations in this review of the National Land Policy, in accordance with Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- Create an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the review of the National Land Policy;
- Take urgent measures to allow rural communities to regain the right to use lost land, including providing technical and financial support and access to assistance with free legal services.