The present report is a summary of eight stakeholders’ submissions1 to the universal periodic review. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. Lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to the absence of submissions by stakeholders regarding these particular issues. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.
I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligation

1. ECLJ stated that Mozambique has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). JS2 stated that Mozambique is not party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) nor to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW). The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance were signed but not ratified (CED).

2. AI recommended ratification of all outstanding human rights treaties, in particular the ICESCR and its Optional Protocol, the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP1), as well as OPCAT.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. JS2 stated that although the Constitution established the principles of the rule of law and social justice, the main statutory laws concerning the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, namely the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Code of Judicial Costs and the laws regarding the prison system come from the colonial period, and some of their provisions were in conflict with the Constitution and the international human rights instruments ratified by Mozambique.

4. AI stated that Mozambique is yet to enact legislation to incorporate some of the provisions of the treaties to which it is a party. It recommended that Mozambique ensure that, once ratified, the provisions of these instruments are incorporated into domestic law.

5. ECPAT submitted that despite Mozambique’s achievements in the protection of the rights of the child, which include the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC), the normative framework for the protection of children from sexual exploitation has not been fully aligned with relevant international legal standards. It stated that pursuant to Article 18 of the Constitution, international instruments that are ratified by Mozambique, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are not directly applicable and did not supersede domestic legislation. This matter raised concern in cases where provisions of ratified international instruments conflict with provisions of national law.

6. ECPAT further stated that although the enactment of the Child Rights Protection Law is a major achievement in relation to the standardization of the protection of children’s rights in Mozambique, none of the provisions relating to the criminalization of child trafficking, child prostitution, child pornography and child-sex tourism are in line with relevant international legal standards. In addition to legislative gaps, ECPAT recommended that Mozambique review and amend existing legislation to define and criminalize child prostitution, child trafficking and child pornography in line with OP-CRC-SC; and adopt extrajudicial legislation to punish Mozambican residents who commit acts in relation to commercial sexual exploitation in foreign countries.

7. JS2 stated that the Anti-Corruption Law does not appear to be aligned with the international legal instruments it ratified, such as the United Nations Convention against
Corruption and the Protocol for the Southern African Development Community against Corruption and the African Union Convention against Corruption.10

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

8. JS2 stated that the institutions of the Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Commission, which were created by the Constitution and the law, are yet to be operational.11 It recommended the establishment of these institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.12 AI recommended that Mozambique ensure that the Justice Ombudsman is elected and the National Human Rights Commission set up without further delay.13

9. ECPAT submitted that the National Council on Child Rights has the mandate to implement the National Action Plan for Children (2006-2011) and a Plan of Action for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (2005-2010). However, their implementation was undermined by the limited resources allocated for this purpose.14 ECPAT recommended that Mozambique ensure that the National Council on Children’s rights is provided with sufficient financial resources to realize this mandate.15

D. Policy measures

10. ECPAT considered that the National Action Plan for Children (2006-2011) and the Plan of Action for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (2005-2010) does not provide a comprehensive policy framework aimed at protecting children against all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children.16 It recommended that a specific national plan of action to address child trafficking and other forms of child sexual exploitation be developed.17

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Cooperation with special procedures

11. Noting that Mozambique had yet to respond to the request made in April 2008 by UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to visit the country,18 AI recommended that Mozambique extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur.19

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

12. JS2 noted that the Constitution guarantees the promotion of women’s rights that Mozambique ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and adopted legislation to mitigate discrimination based on gender, namely the Family Law approved in 2004, and the Law against Domestic Violence, approved in 2009. It underlined, however, that the provisions of these instruments are not always respected in practice noting that domestic violence, polygamy, early marriages for girls and low income for women have wide social legitimacy. JS2 reported that perpetrators of domestic violence go unpunished. It stressed that in the area of education, there are fewer
girls in school than boys, especially in rural areas, and the curriculum continues to be based on the traditional treatment of women instilled by a system of patriarchy. JS2 also reported on the existence of sexual harassment in schools with teachers often the perpetrators. JS2 recommended that Mozambique: implement the recommendations made in June 2007 by CEDAW; increase the care of women who are victims of domestic violence and improve the statistical system of documentation of cases of violence; review the legislation pertaining to education in relation to sexual harassment and sexual abuse in schools and expand the services of sexual reproductive health to adolescents and youths; and ensure that girls have equal access to education and retain pregnant girls in school during and after pregnancy.20

13. JS2 noted that the Constitution provides for the protection of persons with disabilities but highlighted that despite a National Plan for Disability, much remains to be done in the elimination of discrimination against people with disabilities. It recommended that Mozambique consider the creation of an institute for disability and provide for a comprehensive food allowance for people with disabilities, with clear criteria for the selection of beneficiaries.21

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

14. JS2 expressed concern at the high rates of violence by the police, and noted that from January to June 2010 the Mozambican Human Rights League received and set in motion two cases of summary executions.22

15. AI claimed that between January 2006 and June 2009, 46 people died at the hands of the police and that in some of these cases the force used by the police amounted to extrajudicial killings. AI noted the authorities’ failure to ensure thorough, prompt, impartial and adequate investigations in the majority of these cases.23 It recommended that Mozambique ensure that prompt, thorough and impartial investigations were conducted in all cases of suspected extrajudicial executions and other use of force or firearms by police resulting in death or serious injury; and that all perpetrators of lawful killings, including those with command responsibility, are brought to justice in proceedings which meet international fair trial standards, even if there is no pressure from the public or families of the victims to prosecute suspects.24

16. AI also reported that police have used excessive force not only to allegedly prevent suspects from escaping, but also in public order management indicating that some of these incidents resulted in deaths. According to AI, the authorities have generally stated that police officers in such circumstances were acting in self-defence and few investigations have been carried out into the circumstances surrounding the use of force.25 AI recommended that steps be taken to prevent excessive or arbitrary force, including by ensuring that police have access to alternative means to deal with potentially violent situations.26

17. AI reported cases of torture and ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners by the police and prison authorities,27 and recommended that Mozambique: investigate all reports of torture and ill-treatment with a view to bringing to justice those suspected of responsibility for such acts, in accordance with international standards for fair trials; and ensure reparation, including fair and adequate compensation, for victims of torture and other ill-treatment inflicted by state agents.28

18. JS2 expressed concern that prisoners continue to receive cruel and degrading treatment in prisons.29 It stated that in 2009, 12 prisoners died of asphyxiation in “Mogincual District Jail” and that between April and May 2010 there were serious acts of torture in “Machava Central Prison and Maximum Security Jail”.30
19. IIMA welcomed the internal regulation by the Ministry of Justice which prohibited corporal punishment, but noted that children continued to be victims of corporal punishment in schools. It stated that children were subjected to corporal punishment at home.31 IIMA recommended that Mozambique prohibit all forms of corporal punishment, in all settings and by all persons with authority over children.32

20. GIEACPC indicated that corporal punishment of children is lawful in the home. Provisions against violence and abuse in the Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (2007), the Penal Code, the Family Law (2004) and the Constitution (2004) are not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment in childrearing.33 GIEACPC further noted that while Government directives advise against the use of corporal punishment in schools, there is no explicit prohibition in the law. The Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents puts a duty on school management to report mistreatment of learners but does not explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in schools.34 GIEACPC also indicated that corporal punishment is lawful in alternative care settings.35 GIEACPC highlighted the importance of prohibiting all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home, and recommended that the Government enact and implement legislation to ensure complete prohibition.36

21. IIMA noted that the Committee on the Rights of the Child mentioned the persistence in rural areas of traditional practices, such as initiation rites, early marriages, harmful sexual behaviours, and the perseverance of the practice of sending children to work in order to settle family debts.37 IIMA remained concerned about these practices38 and recommended that Mozambique develop sensitization programmes and organize awareness-raising campaigns involving families, community leaders and society at large, including children themselves, to curb harmful traditional practices and other forms of violence against children.39 JS2 recommended that Mozambique implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on this issue.40

22. JS2 recommended that Mozambique increase the services that provide care to victims of domestic violence, and improve the statistical system of documentation of cases of such violence.31

23. ECPAT stated that although Mozambique established special gender-sensitive units within the police, there remained a lack of specific procedures to adequately identify child victims of trafficking as well as institutions and services to provide specific assistance to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.42 It recommended that Mozambique develop specific procedures to adequately identify child victims of commercial sexual exploitation; strengthen the capacities of law enforcers to effectively enforce the law to protect children; and provide for adequate care, recovery and reintegration for child victims and establish institutions in this regard.43

24. JS2 recommended that Mozambique adopt necessary measures to overcome violations reported by UN mandate holders relating to trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour.44 JS2 stated that in April 2008, Mozambique adopted, inter alia, Law No. 6/2008 in relation to human trafficking of women and children.45 It recommended measures to remove any constraints and to regulate the implementation of this legislation.46

3. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

25. While recognizing an expansion of courts, offices of the Attorney General and legal aid to the country’s districts, JS2 noted that the Superior of Court of Appeal, created in 2007, has yet to be installed. It indicated that the courts and the offices of the Attorney General have high rates of procedural delays, results in pre-trial detainees constituting a significant percentage of the prison population.47
26. JS2 indicated that the lack of juvenile courts remained a challenge noting that there was only one juvenile court in the country which was situated in the City of Maputo.\textsuperscript{49} It recommended that Mozambique consider the creation of juvenile courts throughout the country, which would minimize the incarceration of children in the same cells as adult prisoners.\textsuperscript{49}

27. JS2 expressed the concern that significant provisions of the laws applied in criminal justice were outdated and that these caused injustices and limited access to justice.\textsuperscript{50}

28. AI submitted that disciplinary processes appear to be rarely instituted for arbitrary arrests and detentions, despite the Mozambique Police Disciplinary Regulation which provides that the police have a duty to abstain from carrying out arbitrary arrests and detentions. AI added that it had received information that Police Officers responsible for arbitrary arrests or other human rights violations were often transferred to other police stations. No police officer is known to have been brought to justice for carrying out an arbitrary arrest or detention, and victims practically never receive compensation for such violations.\textsuperscript{51} AI recommended that Mozambique ensure that: arrests are effected in accordance with the law by law enforcement officials and that those officers found responsible for arbitrary arrests are brought to justice and not simply transferred to another police station; and that detainees are, in accordance with the law, brought before a court to have their detention legalised by a judge within 48 hours or, alternatively, released.\textsuperscript{52}

29. AI identified the following as some of the existing obstacles to accessing justice: failure of the police to institute investigations or inadequate investigations into complaints; lack of transparency and information given to complainants regarding the progress of investigations; as well as legal and other costs. In addition, the justice system is weak with an insufficient number of qualified judges which contributes to the backlog of cases in the courts.\textsuperscript{53} It recommended that Mozambique ensure that victims of human rights violations are not prevented from claiming reparations because they cannot afford to pursue their respective claims, by taking initiatives which include an evaluation of the existing systems for legal assistance to ascertain what changes can be made to improve services and ensure that free legal assistance is indeed free.\textsuperscript{54}

30. LAMBA stated that in January 2008 an application was made to the Registrar of Companies to incorporate LAMDA as an NGO for the protection of sexual minorities’ rights.\textsuperscript{55} On the date of the submission there had still not been a decision by the government, despite several meetings between LAMBDA representatives and senior officials in the Ministry of Justice.\textsuperscript{56} LAMBDA stated that the lack of response violated the right of association established in the Constitution and that it constituted a tacit rejection based on the issue of sexual orientation and was thus in violation of Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 20 of the Yogyakarta Principles.\textsuperscript{57} LAMBDA recommended that Mozambique take a positive decision regarding the incorporation of LAMBDA.\textsuperscript{59} JS1 supported the calls to enable the registration of NGOs working on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, in accordance with the principles of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.\textsuperscript{59} JS2 recommended that the authorities speed up the process of legalisation of LAMBDA.\textsuperscript{60}

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

31. JS1 noted that articles 70 and 71 of Mozambique’s Penal Code impose measures against people who habitually practice acts “against the order of nature”, stating that such people may be sent to labour camps. It recommended that Mozambique repeal criminal sanctions against sexual activity between consenting adults.\textsuperscript{51}
5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly and right to participate in public and political life

32. JS2 noted that the emergence of several mega-projects had shown that though the Land Law in force protects the rights of local communities with regard to land ownership, economic interests, lack of information for local communities coupled with false promises that accompany most of these projects lead to inadequate processes of public consultation and participation of these communities’ in their relocation. JS2 stated that in the majority of these cases, this resulted in conflicts and cited as an example the resettlement of communities during the rehabilitation of the Massingir dam.62 JS2 submitted that the alleged need for energy has led to the emergence of mega-dam construction projects without, however, a deep analysis of the real local energy needs, the alternatives energy production possibilities for that area, the cumulative impact, causes and effects on climate change have not been considered. In addition, as noted a lack of transparency, of information and effective participation of the respective communities are characteristics of these projects.63

6. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

33. JS2 stated that while the Constitution guarantees special protection for the elderly these guarantees have not materialised in the legislation. It recommended, inter alia, that Mozambique ensure that all elderly persons receive professional medical care in state health centres and provide free medical care to those of whom who are poor; reduce the eligible age for free transportation from 70 to 60 years; and ensure economic security for the elderly by preventing illegal appropriation of their lands.64

34. JS2 indicated that the Constitution only provides implicit recognition of the right to adequate food by recognizing other rights, such as the right to life and social protection65, and accordingly recommended explicit constitutional recognition of the right to adequate food.66 JS2 stated that a law on the right to adequate food, as envisaged in the Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty II and in the Strategy of for Food and Nutrition Safety II, should have been adopted in 2007, but was yet to be presented to Parliament.67 It recommended the adoption of the Base-Law of the Right to Adequate Food.68

35. JS2 stated that despite the reduction in chronic malnutrition, high rates of malnutrition in children under five prevailed. Further, the programmes of food and nutrition education do not reach the majority of population. JS2 indicated that 30 percent of the population is affected by food insecurity due to their vulnerability to natural disasters, absolute poverty and the incidences of chronic diseases.69 The Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Safety (SETSAN) does not have its own budget and consequently competes for resources within the Ministry of Agriculture, which gives primacy to funding agricultural programmes.70

36. JS2 submitted that only 52 percent of the population has health coverage and recommended that Mozambique ensure access to health care and quality medication for the low-income group, and implement measures to increase the number of health professionals.71

37. JS2 stated that the closure of the “Day Hospitals” which dealt with specific cases of HIV/AIDS, created constraints on the population living with HIV/AIDS and resulted in difficulties in managing the Anti-Retroviral Treatment. It recommended that Mozambique establish service centres for people living with HIV/AIDS; expand access to the Anti-Retroviral Treatment to rural areas; and ensure home care for people with HIV/AIDS.72

38. JS2 reported that water resources are under constant pressure from an increase in the population, in economic activity and in competition between different waters users. Further, the shortage of water was exacerbated by an increase in pollution.73
39. IIMA stated that in urban areas 71 percent of the population have access to improved drinking water and 53 percent have access to improved sanitation facilities while, in rural areas, 26 percent of the population have access to improved drinking water and 19 percent of the population have access to improved sanitation facilities. In this regard, IIMA recommended that Mozambique expand water and sanitation programmes in rural areas.

40. JS2 stated that the Constitution establishes the right of all citizens to a “balanced environment” and the duty to protect it. However, environmental problems are not given due weight in light of major economic and social issues because the immediate economic benefits prevailed. Forest degradation proceeds at accelerated levels because of illegal logging, access and uncontrolled cutting of vegetation, weak supervision, inefficient or non-existent management plans, corruption in the sector and uncontrolled forest fires.

7. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

41. IIMA noted with satisfaction the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Children (2006-2011) particularly as Article 92 of the Constitution recognises education as a right and a duty. IIMA expressed appreciation at the objective adopted by Mozambique to achieve universal seven-year primary education by 2015, and welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Education and Culture, as well as the programmes adopted to increase enrolment in schools.

42. IIMA stated that it remained concerned at the high drop out and repetition rates in primary schools, with only 15 percent of children completing primary school education within the expected duration, and nearly half of the children leaving school before completing grade 5. According to IIMA, there was a shortage of educational infrastructure, a low quality of education and an inadequate number of qualified teachers. IIMA stated that there were about 100 public secondary schools Nationwide, of which only 23 offered classes through to grade 12. Most of these schools were located in provincial capitals or major provincial districts. Often, schools lacked water supplies and private and decent sanitation facilities, were also overcrowded, and there was insufficient quantity of schoolbooks and teaching materials.

43. IIMA recommended, inter alia, that Mozambique: build new schools and modernize the existing infrastructures; ensure increased budget allocations to provide schools with appropriate and necessary teaching materials; develop a strategy focused on providing schools with an adequate number of teachers in order to ensure quality education in classes with an acceptable pupil-teacher ratio, and improve in-service teacher training; and implement the new curriculum, and provide better management of schools.

44. JS2 also referred to problems in the education system similar to those identified by IIMA and recommended that Mozambique: grant benefits and incentives to encourage and retain teachers and other educational professionals; adopt measures to reduce the illiteracy rate; and introduce human rights education in primary and secondary schools so as to build and develop a culture of human rights in the country.

45. IIMA was deeply concerned at the persistent disparities between children living in rural and urban areas in the enjoyment of their rights to education and recommended that Mozambique ensure equal access to education and literacy, for urban and rural children.

46. IIMA stated that there was discrimination between pupils who came from the poorest and most disadvantaged families. It also stated that even though school fees in primary schools had been abolished, families continued to face indirect costs, which resulted in children in poor families dropping out of school. In the case of secondary education, IIMA observed that families tend to sacrifice the education of girls to allow boys
to attend school. IIMA recommended that Mozambique provide subsidies for the poorest and most disadvantaged families in order to allow their children to attend school.89

47. IIMA also indicated that though the minimum working age is 18-years-old and children younger than 15 are not permitted to work, children who are not in school are frequently employed in the agricultural and increasingly in construction jobs and in the informal labour sector. Children younger than 15 years of age often work alongside their parents or independently during seasonal harvests at commercial plantations.90

48. JS2 stated that there were only two schools for teaching children with disabilities, which were located in the cities of Maputo and Beira.91

III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

N/A

IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

N/A

V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

N/A

Notes

1 The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org. (One asterisk denotes a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.)

Civil society

- AI - Amnesty International, London, UK.*
- ECLJ - European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg, France.*
- GIEACPC - Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (UK).
- IIMA - Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, Rome, Italy.*
Associação das Mulheres de Carreira Jurídica (AMMCJ - Association of Women in Legal Careers), Movimento Cívico de Solidariedade e Apoio ao Desenvolvimento da Zambézia (MOCIZA - Civic Movement for Solidarity and Support for the Development of Zambézia), Associação para o Desenvolvimento Agro-Pecuário do Sector Familiar (ADAPSF - Association for the Development of Agricultural and Cattle raising Familiar Sector), Associação Agro-pecuária de Ngolhosa (AAPN - Agricultural and Cattle raising Association of Ngolhosa), KUKUMBI – Organização de Desenvolvimento Rural (Organization for Rural Development), Associação Mulher (Woman Association), MULEID - Lei e Desenvolvimento (Law and Development), Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP - Center for Public Integrity), Fórum Mulher (Woman’s Forum), LAMBDA – Associação para Defesa das Minorias Sexuais1 (Association for Protection of Sexual Minorities), Pathfinder International and Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Família (AMODEFA - Association for Family Development)

LAMBDA Mozambican Association for the Defence of Sexual Minorities, Maputo, Mozambique.

2 ECLJ, p. 3.
3 JS2, p. 2.
4 AI, p.6.
5 JS2, p. 2.
6 AI, pp. 1 and 6.
7 ECPAT, p. 1.
8 ECPAT, p. 2.
9 ECPAT, p. 3.
10 JS2, p. 7.
11 JS2, p. 2.
12 JS2, P. 3.
13 AI, p. 7.
14 ECPAT, p. 2.
15 ECPAT, p. 3.
16 ECAT, pp. 1-2.
17 ECAT, p. 3.
18 AI, p.4.
19 AI, p. 6.
20 JS2, p. 9.
21 JS2, p. 7.
22 JS2, p. 3.
23 AI, p. 4.
24 AI, p. 6.
25 AI, p. 4.
26 AI, p. 6.
27 AI, p.5.
28 AI, p. 7.
29 JS2, p. 3.
30 JS2, p. 3.
31 IIMA, p. 4, para. 26.
32 IIMA, p. 4, para. 26.
33 GIEACPC, p. 2.
34 GIEACPC, p. 2.
35 GIEACPC, p. 2.
36 GIEACPC, p. 1.
37 IIMA, p. 5, para. 27.
38 IIMA, p. 5, para. 28.
40 JS2, p. 5.
41 JS2, p. 9.