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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 17TH SESSION
ITEM 6 – ADOPTION OF THE UPR OUTCOME OF MOZAMBIQUE (9 JUNE 2011)
ORAL STATEMENT BY CONECTAS DIREITOS HUMANOS / CONECTAS HUMAN RIGHTS

Thank you, Mr. President.

Conectas Human Rights and the Mozambican League of Human Rights, on behalf of the Civil Society Organizations that actively participated in the UPR, would like to thank all those who supported the Mozambique State and Civil Society for being able to participate effectively in the process.

We would also like to recognize the efforts made by the Government, represented by the Minister of Justice, for their willingness to address and discuss Mozambique's main human rights issues during the UPR.

While our general evaluation of the process is positive, we hope that the next steps of the recommended collaboration between the Government and Civil Society will be *effective* and not superficial.

Our satisfaction does not stem from the generally accepted idea that Mozambique's human rights record is better than that of many other African countries, but rather from the fact that the UPR outcome provides us with a basis of recommendations that when implemented will align the human rights situation in Mozambique with international human rights standards.

We call on the Government to duly implement all accepted recommendations, with particular attention to the following areas: torture, summary executions, and domestic violence. Indeed, we receive on a daily basis allegations of police brutality, and we have been legally assisting on a pro bono basis several women who have suffered domestic violence but have been unable to receive support in a gender sensitive manner, and have often even been humiliated by the specialized services called "Gabinetes de Atendimento da Mulher e da Criança".

We also call on the Government to reconsider its position with respect to the legal recognition of the NGO for the defence of sexual minorities – Lambda.

Thank you Mr. President.

