



Human Rights Office

International Institute Mary Auxiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

on Mozambique

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Geneva, June 9, 2011

(Thank you for giving me the floor)

Mr. President,

IIMA welcomes the Mozambique's acceptance of recommendations concerning the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, notably the **right to education**.

Nevertheless, IIMA perceives several issues affecting the educational system, such as: the persistence of school enrolment fees, despite the governmental abolishment in 2005; high levels of the dropout and repetition rates; shortage of educational infrastructures and their concentration in provincial capitals and major provincial districts; insufficiency of teaching personnel and school materials. These deficiencies manly affect most vulnerable children, especially those living in rural areas. Among them, girls are even more discriminated.

In this regard, IIMA strongly recommends Mozambique to:

- **ensure equal access to education and eradicate any gender disparity, especially in rural;**
- **build new schools and provide subsidies for poorest families in order to increase attendance of school for their children;**
- **Provide teachers with adequate training, in order to ensure a quality education.**

With regard to **violence against children**, IIMA is particularly concerned by the persistence of corporal punishments in private and in public contexts. Some traditional practices, especially early marriages, reach 60% in rural areas, and 39% in urban areas.

IIMA, therefore, recommends Mozambique to:

- **foresee in the Child Rights Protection Law the prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment;**
- **organize awareness-raising campaigns involving families, community leaders and society at large, including children themselves, to eliminate harmful traditional practices and all other forms of violence against children.**

Thank you.

