

**32nd session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6 – UPR Outcome Mozambique**

**Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit -
COC Nederland
Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association**

Delivered by Jacobus Witbooi

Dear Mr. President,

The following statement has been prepared in partnership with Lambda Mozambique. Even though we commend Mozambique for revising Articles 70 and 71 of the Penal Code, which contained criminal provisions against those who were, and I quote, “usually engaging in acts against nature”, we cannot but hide our disappointment with the fact that the new penal code does not include outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, in both the first and the current cycle of UPR, Mozambique did not accept any recommendation on SOGI, by which the State clearly shows it is not fully committed to the rights of all human beings.

Mr. President,

Mozambique prides itself for having a democratic rule of law. But even though the constitution guarantees equality of all before the law, and thus should prohibit discrimination on *any* grounds and protect all its citizens, we still see too many human rights offences against Mozambiquans based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Mozambique does still not guarantee the freedom of association to organizations working on sexual minority rights. NGOs are still not able to register and operate freely and receive the necessary legal protection to guard against intimidation and violence from members of the public. We still witness violence and discrimination against LGBT people.

We encourage Mozambique to keep up to its promise to uphold a democratic rule of law in which non-discrimination, protection and equality are guaranteed for *all*. We therefore call upon the State to accept and act on all recommendations on sexual orientation and gender identity in the current and past cycle of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.