

## **Visit of the PBC Chair to Mozambique**

**16-20 November 2023**

### **Mission Report**

1. In my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), I (Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations), alongside the two PBC Vice-Chairs, Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN and Ambassador Thomas Peter Zahneisen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, visited Mozambique from 16 to 20 November 2023 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique. Two staff members from the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) were also part of the mission.

As per the Terms of Reference, the visit followed the PBC Ambassadorial meeting on Mozambique, held in New York on 29 March 2023, on Mozambique's good practices and lessons learnt in implementing the Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation. President Nyusi underlined national ownership, mutual trust, and dialogue among the key success factors in the peace process and post-conflict peacebuilding. He also called for international support of current efforts to counter violent extremism in the north of the country, as well as to build and sustain peace, and also invited the PBC to visit Mozambique. The mission to Mozambique was an opportunity to exchange with national and local actors, and to help mobilize international political, financial, and technical support for remaining peacebuilding requirements and priorities in Mozambique.

2. During the visit, the delegation met, among others, with H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Adriano Maleiane, Prime Minister, H.E. Ms. Veronica Macamo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the Permanent Commission of the Assembly of the Republic (Parliament). We also met with representatives of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank Group (WBG), UN entities and bilateral donors. The delegation also took part in a national conference on "*Mozambique in the United Nations Security Council: Promoting Peace, Security and Development*", co-organized by President Nyusi and Joaquim Chissano University and included various stakeholders, including political parties, civil society representatives and academia. They also met informally with the leader of the opposition RENAMO group Mr. Ossufo Momade. The delegation also had an opportunity to travel to Cabo Delgado province in Pemba, Metuge district and Mocimboa da Praia during where we interacted with H.E. Mr. Valige Tauabo, Governor of Cabo Delgado, local government representatives, district authorities, the Northern Development Agency (ADIN), civil society representatives, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees.

3. We appreciate the invitation and the hospitality extended by President Nyusi and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique during our visit, as well as the informative and

constructive discussions with national, regional, and international interlocutors. We wish to thank the UN Resident Coordinator and UN colleagues for their support during the visit.

### **Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation**

4. The mission took place against the backdrop of notable successes in the implementation of the Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation, which places Mozambique at a critical turning point in its trajectory towards sustaining peace and sustainable development. President Nyusi's leadership and strong resolve towards achieving that goal, was evident throughout our visit. We also took note of the important work done by the former Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Mozambique, Mr. Mirko Manzoni, in support of the peace process.

5. The Maputo Accord, which was signed in August 2019, continues to be the framework and pathway towards establishing durable peace. As part of the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) provisions of the Accord, we heard that the DDR beneficiaries are being integrated into the existing national legal framework of the pension system, in which extensive safeguards are in place. Reportedly, they will become part of a group comprising approximately 170,000 veterans of the civil war and those demobilized in 1992. Further, it is said that they now consequently join a substantial cohort enjoying the same benefits within the same national legal framework as a strategic decision to avoid differentiated systems. Despite budget constraints, the Government consistently prioritizes pension payments for all, including RENAMO. This commitment is driven by the recognition that failing to fulfill pension obligations is politically unviable. While the Government remains steadfast in ensuring the timely and consistent disbursement of the pensions, finding a durable solution for the financing of the pensions is critical for the sustainability of the peace process.

6. While acknowledging the remarkable achievements of the peace process, the visit took place right after the municipal elections of 11 October 2023, and post-electoral disputes. The leader of the opposition RENAMO group, Mr. Ossufo Momade, who we met, was vociferous in rejecting the results of the elections. In that regard, I noted the importance of continuing to resolve any disputes that may arise through peaceful dialogue. Furthermore, we noted that addressing the root causes of conflict was critical, including existing grievances around limited socio-economic opportunities, to peacebuilding and peace maintenance in Mozambique.

### **Socio-economic developments and partnerships**

7. Mozambique continues to rank at the bottom of development indicators with approximately 73 percent of Mozambicans experiencing multidimensional poverty. Mozambique is the third most exposed country in Africa to climate events and natural disasters. Climate change has been a key factor of displacement and loss of livelihoods, with up to 2.3 million people needing humanitarian assistance. Interlocutors noted the need for anticipatory action, including strengthening resilience to climate shocks, as an outmost priority and it was recognized that efforts to strengthen climate resilience are ongoing. Government representatives and the UN further stressed the necessity to ensure that all Mozambicans access basic services, which would help moving away from systemic humanitarian assistance.

8. The GDP of Mozambique is projected as 6 percent in 2023 and the diversification of the economy remains a challenge in a country where the population continues to rely heavily on agriculture. In that regard, the Prime Minister acknowledged the need to find innovative solutions to modernize and diversify the economy, to ensure sustainable development. The Permanent Commission of the Assembly of the Republic noted however, the need to provide technical and capacity-building support to enhance the population's skills as well as increase access to national markets. Mozambique is endowed with ample human and natural resources, including mineral resources and deposits of natural gas, which if well exploited, could significantly advance inclusive and sustainable development. To maximize the management of existing and incoming resources in support of durable peace and development, it could be considered that an anti-corruption commission be established to support already ongoing anti-corruption measures.

9. Mozambique has already achieved important progress in undertaking macro-economic reforms, the debt burden as well as liquidity challenges, however, continue to affect the Government's ability to undertake necessary actions to improve the socio-economic situation. We noted that following the Government's financial and governance reforms, the regional and international financial institutions, such as the AfDB and the WBG, and international partners have scaled up their support to infrastructure, reconstruction, recovery, and development, including in Cabo Delgado. However, we noted that more accelerated support is required, and vigorous engagement with international and regional financial institutions in-situ would be most useful. In addition, synchronization of investments of the international financial institutions with national priorities is critical.

10. In our meeting with the AfDB, the WBG, and the IMF, we were informed that the strong resolve by the Government to achieve macro-economic stabilization and to address governance and anti-corruption issues has been determinant in their support. We were therefore encouraged by their support to the Government in instigating the necessary structural and fiscal change in Mozambique, notably by strengthening national and local infrastructures, establishing effective and accountable institutions as well as increasing basic service delivery. We continue to believe that regional and international financial institutions play a pivotal role in supporting Mozambique's peacebuilding efforts, and they are well placed to support broad scale development, including in the Northern part of the country through the frameworks of the Reconstruction Plan for Cabo Delgado (PRCD), and the Integrated Development and Resilience Program for the North (PREDIN).

### **Women and youth empowerment**

11. We witnessed the active and positive engagement of civil society and the excellent work done by community members, women and youth in particular, to consolidate peace and advance durable and inclusive development.

12. Youth consist of a sizeable stratum of Mozambique's population - two-thirds of estimated population of 32 million is estimated as below 25 years. The youthful demographic composition of the country represents both an opportunity as well as a challenge in terms of supporting and utilizing their potential. In that regard, their positive role as actors of change was recognized, and

the importance of creating livelihood opportunities for youth was underlined. Moreover, the Permanent Commission of the Assembly of the Republic, stressed the need for increased political participation and leadership of youth, noting that less than 20 percent of the Parliament consist of youth.

13. The crucial role of women in development, peacebuilding, and peace maintenance was underlined throughout our visit. Despite significant progress, women continue to be impacted by root causes of the conflict, including socio-economic inequalities and marginalization, high levels of unemployment, and limited access to education. The importance of continuing to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, including through protection and socio-economic opportunities, was highlighted by many interlocutors. We were able to witness the impact of the national and local authorities as well as international partners' support to youth and women IDPs and returnees in Cabo Delgado, including support to employment training and livelihoods. We observed that more support is needed to ensure that the basic needs are met to ensure long-term recovery and development and to ensure women's and youth's meaningful participation and engagement at all levels of the peace process.

### **Visit to Cabo Delgado**

14. During our visit in the Northern part of the country, we noted that Mozambique's Defence and Security Forces (FDS) appear to have successfully improved the security and stability of the Cabo Delgado province, with strong and visible support from Rwandan and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) security forces. Over the last 18 months, approximately 420,000 IDPs have returned as a sign of the progressive stabilization and recovery of the province.

15. The interlocutors we met provided valuable insights on the efforts undertaken in terms of reconstruction and development initiatives in Cabo Delgado. The Government officials we met highlighted the importance of creating a durable and conducive environment for local communities to rebuild their lives in Cabo Delgado, while noting the challenging economic situation and the limitation in terms of financial resources. The Governor of Cabo Delgado underlined the consequences of multiplying factors that have negatively impacted the province over the past few years, such as the impacts of the conflict, climate shocks, and the COVID-19. He reiterated the need to provide hope for the population, by ensuring that all necessary resources are invested in their development and livelihoods.

16. Approximately 1.7 million people in northern Mozambique are still in need of humanitarian assistance while the humanitarian response plan remains underfunded. Our visit to the Metuge district, which hosts a significant number of IDPs, showcased exceptional solidarity and peaceful co-existence between the host communities and the displaced. While support is provided by the Government and national and international partners, access to basic needs and services, psycho-social support, and land availability remain significant challenges within the context of vast needs and limited resources. The need for urgent, timely and increased humanitarian support, as well as further flexibility to strengthen humanitarian response was underlined.

17. This reinforces the need to support the PRCD, budgeted at \$300 million and the PREDIN budgeted at \$2.5 billion, both Government recovery support programmes in the North. A number of interlocutors underlined in particular the need to invest as a matter of priority on critical infrastructure and the resumption of public services. The Governor of Cabo Delgado noted that assessments on the reconstruction, recovery, and development needs in some locations are yet to be conducted due to security constraints, and therefore not reflected in the current plans and budgets. Meanwhile, recovery and reconstruction investments in the districts of return are being scaled up, including through the Northern Recovery Programme and the Stabilization programme. We witnessed the recovery and reconstruction efforts of the Government, with the support from regional and international partners, including the regional and international financial institutions and the UN. A key success has been the rehabilitation of the Mocimboa da Praia port, which is critical for economic recovery and development.

### **Observations**

18. Through the visit, the PBC delegation was able to better comprehend the complexity of the peace, humanitarian, security, and development challenges facing Mozambique, including those associated with conflicts, the effects of climate change, socio-economic issues, and displacement. Striking a balance between humanitarian response and long-term development remains critical in Mozambique. While increased humanitarian response and support is urgently needed, peacebuilding, stabilization, recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts must also be prioritized to progressively move from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development and durable peace.

19. Through our discussions with various interlocutors and the field visits, it became evident that increased resources and enhanced collaboration and coordination is required to maximize the collective impact to addressing the root causes of conflict, sustain peacebuilding gains and to catalyze development efforts. In that regard, continued collaboration between the humanitarian and development partners and the Government of Mozambique is necessary to ensure that the peacebuilding and humanitarian needs are addressed, and that gains are sustained in line with national frameworks. The nexus between peace and development in Mozambique cannot be overemphasized, and the UN is certainly cognizant of this.

20. A number of interlocutors raised the need for a strong UN presence in the country that could help these political processes and be as an impartial mediator among different constituencies. The UN could consider reinforcing its political capacity in Mozambique alongside the existing humanitarian and development presence. In this regard, I suggest to, in consultation with the Government and relevant stakeholders, strengthen UN presence in the country to help with preparing and monitoring elections, confidence building measures between the two parties and addressing root causes of conflict.

21. In my capacity as Chair, I would like to reiterate my appreciation of the fruitful collaboration with Mozambique, and the invitation of the President Nyusi. I encourage Mozambique to continue engaging regularly with the Commission to share experiences, best

practices, and lessons learned, as well as the progress achieved on building and sustaining peace to mobilize international support.