

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MOZAMBIQUE

### SECOND BATCH

#### **BELGIUM**

- The Belgian delegation appreciates the acceptance by the Government of Mozambique of the individual complaints procedure under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Is the Government of Mozambique considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under other human rights conventions to which it is already a State party? During its first UPR session the delegation of Mozambique had agreed with recommendations to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, and the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Could the delegation explain what progress has been made on these specific commitments?
- Belgium attaches great importance to the efficient functioning of special procedures and in this context country visits are essential for the quality of their assessments and proposals. For this reason the Belgian government has issued a standing invitation and regularly receives UN rapporteurs or independent experts. Is the Government of Mozambique considering likewise to issue a standing invitation to UN special procedures? A commitment for a standing invitation had already been taken during the first UPR session for Mozambique in 2011.
- In the framework of the fight against impunity and the commitment by the Government of Mozambique to ensure freedom of expression there have been inquiries from civil society on the as yet non-elucidated recent murders of the academic professor Gilles Cistac and journalist Paulo Machava. According to human rights organizations, these crimes could have been inspired by the opinions of the victims. How will the authorities proceed in order to ensure a full inquiry into these murder cases?
- Reports mention the difficult prison conditions which are also linked to the systematic overcrowding in detention facilities. Can the delegation of Mozambique provide us information on measures which are to be taken in order to improve prison conditions?