

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MOZAMBIQUE ADD.1

IRELAND

Ireland welcomes Mozambique's signing and ratification of many international instruments in relation to human rights.

Rights of the Child

- Ireland welcomes the continued commitment of the Government of Mozambique to the protection of children, and the constitutional and legal framework in place. We welcome the progress being made in many areas. However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has mentioned the problem in rural areas of traditional practices which are harmful to children. These practices include initiation rites, early marriages and the practice of sending children to work to settle family debts. The Committee has also made recommendations in relation to these issues. We would like to know what Mozambique is doing to implement these recommendations and to reach and educate rural communities in such matters?

Infrastructure

- In terms of national institutions, the National Human Rights Commission and the position of Justice Ombudsman were created by the Constitution of Mozambique and Mozambican law. This is an important step but we regret that neither are yet operational. We would like to know what timeframe is envisaged for the establishment and election of these, and what resources will be allocated to them?

United Nations Convention Against Torture

- We welcome Mozambique's ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) more than a decade ago, in 1999, and note that ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) is under consideration. We would like to know if there is a time frame within which signature and ratification will take place, and when Mozambique will submit its initial report to the Committee Against Torture? Also, what steps are being taken to implement UNCAT?

SWITZERLAND

- Does the Government of Mozambique intend to investigate all allegations of torture in the future and bring the perpetrators to justice? Does the Government intend to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- What measures does the Government take to investigate all allegations of arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial executions?

- What measures does the Government take to ensure universal access to health care as well as to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS?
- What measures does the Government take to ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth and that the MISAU (Ministry of Health) approved plan for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 is effectively implemented?