



ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC
National Joint Group of SADC PF

**NATIONAL REPORT FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE
53RD PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

JUNE 2023

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present this National Report which provides a synthesized approach to the degree of implementation of model laws and other Plenary Assembly resolutions.

Our approach will focus more on renewable energy and child protection, because the indicated deadline, July 16, 2023, for the submission of the Report was very tight and did not allow the collection of information from the appropriate institutions (Ministries) on the degree of implementation of model laws. We assume the commitment to present information on this matter at the next Plenary Assembly.

1. RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Government through the Ministry of Industry and Energy collaborates and utilizes the local capacities of higher education institutions, such as universities and research institutions.

For this purpose it has created an institution called National Energy Fund, FP, abbreviated as "FUNAE, FP", a Mozambican public institution, with the objective to finance and implement energy projects in order to increase access to energy in rural areas, contribute to universal access to energy services, facilitate the active participation of the private sector, and consolidate the development and promotion of initiatives for the dissemination of energy solutions. Therefore, tax breaks on renewable energy, duties and temporary tax exemptions, among others, in order to attract the participation of local investors, are the responsibility of FUNAE.

Regarding the revision of school programs at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, the Government has ensured practical content on agriculture and sustainable energy issues for students.

Regarding specific policies and legislation to facilitate young people and women to acquire land with titles (DUAT's) for agricultural and renewable energy projects, such as mini-grid energy systems, the Government has ensured through specific legislation.

FUNAE has financed and implemented structured projects based on clear procedures accessible to all, providing the necessary skills and funding for young people to participate in the sector.

Finally, we would like to inform that the Government through appropriate institutions has carried out awareness campaigns in urban and rural areas about the negative impact of vandalizing power lines on the economy and society (radio, television, and newspapers) and toughened the laws in order to deter perpetrators of this crime.

2. CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection is clearly addressed in the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique which states:

1. "All children have the right to protection from the family, society and the State, with a view to their full development.
2. Children, particularly orphans, the disabled and the abandoned, have the protection of the family, society and the State against any form of discrimination, ill-treatment and against the abuse of authority in the family and other institutions.
3. The child may not be discriminated against, in particular on the grounds of birth, nor be subjected to ill-treatment.
4. Child Labor whether of compulsory schooling age or of any other age is prohibited."

The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique further states that " the State has the duty to ensure the protection of the rights of women and children, as stipulated in International Declarations and Conventions."

I. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ON THE MATTER

The Family Law on child protection establishes that "a child is considered to be a person under eighteen years of age".

Regarding marriage, the family law states that "marriage is the voluntary union **between a man and a woman**, with the purpose of constituting a family, through full communion of life"; "the willingness to marry **is strictly personal** in relation to each of the spouses; and "the willingness to marry **implies acceptance of all legal effects of marriage**, without prejudice to the legitimate stipulations of the spouses in a prenuptial agreement.

The same law sets the marriageable age in Mozambique at 18 years of age. However, it does define that for "a woman or man over 18 years of age may exceptionally marry when circumstances of recognized public and family interest occur and there is consent of parents or legal representatives."

II. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS (ARE THEY APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM EARLY MARRIAGE?)

Regarding this issue, we have to inform that within the scope of the Principle of the Superior Interest of the Child, according to which all decisions should be taken from the perspective of favoring the child, we have initiated the

diligence for the revocation of this provision harmonizing the marriageable age with the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified through Resolutions No. 20/98 of May 26 and No. 19/90 of October 23 of the Council of Ministers.

It is also a challenge to adopt legal measures to punish those involved in premature marriages.

Taking into account that premature marriages are a harmful social practice, which has consequences on the child's development and on society due to premature pregnancies that increase the maternal death rate, school dropout, increase in domestic violence, poverty among the female population, cases of obstetric fistula, and HIV contamination indices, the change in attitudes at the community level about the definition of a child, in the context of the dissemination of the Rights of the Child, awareness-raising actions have been carried out through lectures, debates, theater, and media programs.

For example, the Government has initiated a campaign to prevent and combat premature marriages with the involvement of institutions, civil society organizations, religious institutions, the media and among other sectors of society within the framework of the Campaign launched by the African Union in 2004.

In summary, the constitutional and legislative provisions of the Republic of Mozambique are adequate for the protection of children from early marriage.

It should be noted that in Mozambique we have the Ministry of Gender and Social Action which, among other attributions, deals with the issue of financing child protection services and organizations that work solely to protect and safeguard children.

III. Regarding the Government's measures for the protection of children we have reported the following:

- Strengthening of positive preventive and disciplinary measures to stop violence at school, especially with regard to bullying by holding lectures in schools;
- Creating transportation conditions for children with disabilities;
- Reformulation of legislation regarding the protection of children; formulating policies and laws that eliminate the different obstacles that young girls face when looking for work;

- Supporting school reintegration policies for girls and young women seeking to improve educational opportunities and young women who become pregnant while in school;
- Ensuring the strengthening of Comprehensive Sex Education programs and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services in schools;
- Ensuring that all girl children in school have access to free sanitary pads;
- Fostered girls' and young women's entrepreneurship through specific institutions and civil society organizations; and
- Ensured coordination and dialogue with different stakeholders, such as civil society organizations (CSOs),

IV. HIV/ AIDS

With respect to HIV/AIDS the government of Mozambique continues with the awareness raising work to combat discrimination and stigma of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you