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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Mozambique
- Council conclusions (22 April 2020)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on Mozambique, adopted by written procedure on 22 April 2020.

Council conclusions on Mozambique

1. The signature in August 2019 of the Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement by the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO offers a renewed opportunity to build durable peace, reconciliation and stability. The EU remains fully committed to support it. Transparency and inclusivity in the peace process is crucial, with significant attention to the participation of women and youth and the gender perspective.
2. Tangible progress in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) is also instrumental for a long-lasting reconciliation. It requires immediate and sustained measures, and the EU calls on both parties to implement their commitments in this key area. Effective steps in decentralisation will also be critical.
3. The continuously deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado province requires urgent attention, while ensuring full respect for human rights. The recent attacks in Mocimboa da Praia and Quissanga are cause for concern. The situation requires that the authorities take effective action in order to protect citizens, carry out investigations to bring perpetrators to justice, and identify the role of terrorist organisations and their potential international links where appropriate.
4. The EU is ready to engage in a dialogue to determine effective options for assistance, taking into account the complex and regional character of the situation, and to support relevant cross-border cooperation between Mozambique and its neighbours. An integrated and coordinated approach is necessary, including by promoting democracy, human rights, effective local governance, restoring the rule of law and addressing the socio-economic conditions that foster instability and violent extremism

5. In dialogue with the authorities, the EU stands ready to support the implementation of the recommendations of its Electoral Observation Mission in order to consolidate democracy and strengthen the trust of all Mozambicans in institutions, before the next municipal and general elections.
6. The EU is committed to working with Mozambique to promote sustainable economic transformation and diversification, with a specific attention to productive employment and decent work, focusing on women and youth and the need for inclusive growth, with attention to the specific needs of rural areas, and integrating prevention and mitigation of climate change effects. The EU is ready to support Mozambique in the necessary economic and political governance reforms, with the goal of achieving greater macroeconomic stability, an improved business climate for all economic operators, fiscal sustainability and transparency, access to quality basic services and an equitable distribution of revenue, not least from gas, where Mozambique has the potential to become one of the world's major producers. Sustained action against corruption will be a critical contribution to improving investor confidence.
7. The EU also stands ready to back Mozambique in deepening its regional integration and diversifying its exports, building on continued effective implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement, and also in the light of the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area.
8. One year after cyclones Idai and Kenneth, Mozambique continues to face humanitarian and climate-related challenges. The humanitarian situation is especially dire in Cabo Delgado where violent extremism has forced thousands to leave their homes. In parallel to the ongoing reconstruction efforts, the EU reaffirms its commitment to support resilience building and to keep providing humanitarian support, including to prepare for and respond to crises.

9. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the EU recognises that it will be essential to adapt plans, activities and timelines across all areas of work. The EU reiterates its solidarity and stands ready to support the Government of Mozambique, in its efforts to mitigate the potential detrimental effects of the pandemic on the health sector, as well as its broader humanitarian, social and economic impact, affecting the people of Mozambique and particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.
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