



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Mozambique  
to the United Nations**

**REMARKS BY**  
**H.E. AMBASSADOR PEDRO COMISSÁRIO,**  
**REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE**  
**TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**Briefing**  
**On Ukraine**

**NEW YORK, 17 JANUARY 2023, At 3 PM**

**Mr. President,**

Mozambique wishes to thank ASG Ilze Brands Kehris and Metropolitan Anthony for their valuable insights.

We note that, as the conflict drags on, we are faced with the rapid deterioration of and disregard for hard won human rights and fundamental freedoms, compounding an already fraught situation.

This is taking place at a time when the faithful and God-fearing peoples should devote themselves to reflection, healing and reconciliation.

Indeed, the first and most visible casualty of war, anywhere in the world, is the human decency and respect for the sense of our common humanity. As one twentieth century philosopher famously put it, we are confronted with the “banality of evil”.

The instrumentalization of religion and the disrespect for other people’s beliefs and their places of worship, can only further entrench hatred.

Mr. President,

Let's be reminded that freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also an important acquisition of the present-day civilization.

Attacks on this tenet of the Universal Declaration undermines peaceful coexistence amongst peoples and nations, which is anchored in the respect for differences and pluralism.

We urge political leaders and citizens to exercise utmost restraint and abstain from weaponizing this highly sensitive issue, which can only undermine the possibility of any future reconciliation.

We remain deeply concerned over the retreat from further any possibility of a negotiated settlement. We are concerned over the radicalization of supporters on both sides of the conflicting parties.

In this context, we reiterate our call, made a few days ago, in this chamber, for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the return to direct

negotiations between the parties. I thank you, Mr. President!