CSO Statement for Mozambique VNR Presentation

Good morning, distinguished delegates.

My name is Pedro Muiambo, Director of Programmes at JOINT – the League of NGOs in Mozambique. Today, I speak on behalf of 28 civil society organisations working across all eleven provinces of our country.

Through the Activist's Scorecard, we conducted an independent assessment of Mozambique's progress towards the SDGs. Our findings are clear: based on the current trajectory, Mozambique is not on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The assessment shows regression in key areas such as Climate Action, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Decent Work. Progress in many other goals remains limited or stagnant.

The reasons are well known. Climate change continues to devastate communities through frequent and severe disasters. Conflict in the north has displaced hundreds of thousands of people and continues to undermine development. Corruption weakens public institutions and diverts scarce resources. At the same time, civic space is becoming more restricted, making it harder for civil society to contribute to accountability and inclusive development.

Civil society welcomes opportunities for dialogue with the Government and recognises recent efforts to strengthen national development planning. However, meaningful progress requires more than ambition. It requires accountability, transparency and genuine participation.

As the international community reflects on the post-2030 development framework, we call for stronger accountability mechanisms, greater investment in locally led solutions, fair management of public resources, and the protection of civic space. Communities, women, young people and civil society must be recognised not simply as beneficiaries, but as partners in shaping sustainable development.

Mozambique's challenges are significant, but they are not overcome. With inclusive leadership and collective action, progress is still possible.

Thank you.