

Mozambique

Mozambique is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System



Mozambique has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Additionally, Mozambique has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Mozambique through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *J.E. Zitha & P.J.L. Zitha v. Mozambique*, the Commission found inadmissible a complaint concerning the arrest, detention, and disappearance of a medical student in 1974 because it was not submitted within a reasonable time after the events. See ACommHPR, *J.E. Zitha & P.J.L. Zitha v. Mozambique*, Communication No. 361/08, 9th Extraordinary Session, 1 April 2011. Similarly, the Court rejected a complaint alleging that immigration officials had demanded bribes, robbed, and subjected two individuals to torture while they were stranded in Pemba, Mozambique, because Mozambique has not authorized the Court to hear individual complaints against it. See AfCHPR, *Daniel Amare and Mulugeta Amare v. Mozambique and Mozambique Airlines*, App. No. 005/11, Judgment of 16 June 2011.

Mozambique has fallen behind in its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Mozambique, including promotion missions in [2000](#) and [2010](#) and missions on prisons and conditions of detention in [1997](#) and [2001](#).

Mozambique has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Mozambique is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Mozambique's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Mozambique has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Mozambique has submitted a reservation that modifies its obligations under the [CERD](#).

Mozambique has also ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT; the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty; and optional protocols to the CRC on children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Mozambique has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the relevant treaty Mozambique has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Mozambique has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Mozambique has ratified **optional protocols** and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the CEDAW and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Mozambique has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On April 12, 2016, Mozambique extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Mozambique. For example, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights went on a mission in April 2013, and published a [report](#) in June 2014.

For more information on Mozambique's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/MZIndex.aspx>.

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