

Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights was launched

- As part of the effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the Cabo Delgado Provincial Working Group was launched on Thursday, March 31, focusing on operational issues, including dialogue, stakeholder engagement, community participation and mitigation of incidents of human rights violations in communities. Its structure includes the Cabo Delgado provincial authorities; the national and international private sector active in Cabo Delgado; Cabo Delgado civil society and observers.



Just as the National Working Group, the coordination of the Cabo Delgado Technical Group will also be done by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, supported by the Ministry of National Defense, where the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) will be responsible for the Secretariat, and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) providing technical assistance. The effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights is supported by the British High Commission in Mozambique and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.

The launch of the Provincial Working Group is the result of several months of preparatory meetings and research activities, including research and analysis for a baseline study on the security and human rights situation in Cabo Delgado, and consultations with provincial authorities. Speaking at the ceremony, the Governor of Cabo Delgado reiterated the support and commitment of the local government to the effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

“In supporting this initiative it is in our interest that the Provincial Group on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights be influent so that the current development poles are accompanied by actions that ensure the participation and involvement of all development sectors, with emphasis on local ones to avoid asymmetries and therefore, the risks related to security and human rights,” said Valige Tauabo .

The Governor of Cabo Delgado recalled that the province has an enormous potential of natural resources capable of generating wealth and reversing the poverty scenario. For this reason, he defended that in the process of natural resources exploration it is crucial to safeguard the space for entrepreneurs of the informal sector as a way to avoid situations that compromise security and Human Rights. “That transparency and the participation of all in the development process be safeguarded, with relative attention to local actors”.

In his turn, the Secretary of State of Cabo Delgado said that the launching of the Provincial Technical Working Group represents an opportunity to learn and conform the reconstruction actions of Cabo Delgado to the national and international legal norms that aim to ensure justice and the respect for Human Rights. António Supeia noted that in addition to the implementation of the Reconstruction Plan in the areas affected by terrorism, actions are underway to prepare the conditions for the return of populations to their areas of origin.

“These actions are carried out taking into account the need to safeguard justice and



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Governor of Cabo Delgado



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Secretary of State of Cabo Delgado



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ALAN BRYDEN
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MANUEL DIDIER MALUNGA, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice



ANASTÁCIO ZAQUEU BARASSÁ, Brigadier of the Armed Forces



JOANA MARTINS,
Anonymous Mozambican Volunteers

the basic principles of human rights, respecting the policy and strategy for managing internally displaced persons and the protocols of the United Nations and the African Union. Human Rights are an appanage of the actions of the State and its institutions. Therefore, we advocate the need to ensure the continuous capacity building of the relevant institutions and actors in the implementation of human rights issues at the national level.

The effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique counts with the technical assistance of DCAF, which was represented by Alan Bryden. Speaking at the ceremony in Pemba, he highlighted the importance of the commitment of the Secretary of State, the Government of Cabo Delgado, business and civil society to work together in the Provincial Working Group on the Voluntary Principles. "We believe that this initiative can have a great contribution to the security of communities, support for economic and social development and the creation of a good business environment."

The DCAF representative reminded that there can only be dialogue when all parties are represented in the Technical Working Group. "Only through a dialogue with all parties can there be a solution to the problem that Cabo Delgado faces. There is no perfect working model on the Voluntary Principles, so it is important to always consider the context," argued Alan Bryden.

The British High Commission in Mozambique and the Swiss Development Cooperation are the partners supporting the Voluntary Principles initiative in Mozambique. Seuan

Davidson, from the British High Commission in Mozambique, sees in the creation of the National Working Group and the Cabo Delgado Technical Group signs of the Government's commitment to the effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles. "We hope that the initiative will contribute to promoting human rights and to improving the business and security environment in Cabo Delgado."

The Swiss Development Cooperation's representative in Mozambique, Jean Mathieu, argued that the Voluntary Principles can help solve the security and human rights problems affecting the province of Cabo Delgado. "Therefore, we understand that the involvement of local authorities and communities is fundamental to the success of this initiative."

The Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, which coordinates and leads the effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique, was represented by its Permanent Secretary, Manuel Didier Malunga. Speaking at the event, he supported the training and capacity building of communities and Defense and Security Forces on Human Rights issues.

"The Government of Mozambique reaffirms its full commitment and support to the participation of youth and women in this process. In its leadership and coordination role, the Government expresses total availability to work together with the private sector and the civil society in order to promote a good security and business environment in the areas where natural resources exploration

takes place", said Manuel Didier Malunga, appealing to the multinational companies of natural resources exploration to respect Human Rights.

Representing the Ministry of National Defense, Brigadier Anastácio Zaqueu Barassá, said that the Defense sector looks to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights as a tool that helps deepen institutional relations, with a focus on civil-military relations, in a context where an inclusive dialogue is recommended where public institutions, the international community, civil society and the private sector are key players. "The Ministry of National Defense shares the need for the protection and promotion of Human Rights. The implementation of the provincial level Working Group is a contribution to deepen the knowledge of the factors that lead to violent extremism in Cabo Delgado".

Brigadier Anastácio Zaqueu Barassá argued that the Working Group should promote inter-identity dialogue and be a platform for the promotion of civil-military relations, taking into account the role of the Defense and Security Forces in contexts of armed conflict. "It is also desirable to take into account that the prevailing situation and the dynamics of the conflict require the proliferation of this kind of platform, in the sense that while military operations continue to stop the combative initiative of terrorists, it is justifiable to materialize programs that can contribute to the de-radicalization as well as to the prevention of new incidents in the communities.

The international private sector was represented by the French oil company TotalEnergies



gies, leader of the Mozambique LNG project in Area 1 of the Rovuma Basin. Speaking on behalf of TotalEnergies, Delphine Fauque, said that the company has been training public and private forces in matters related to the Voluntary Principles. "We are training the trainers of the police and army commanders. We are creating links between the community leadership and the joint forces. We are investing in the communities to produce food. Also in the link between the security forces and the communities, we are supporting sports initiatives."

The Agha Khan Foundation has been working with communities in Cabo Delgado in the areas of agriculture, health, financial inclusion, and social protection since 2001. "This Foundation is a development actor and is not unaware of Human Rights issues. We are developing trusting relationships and that is very important. The Agha Khan Foundation has suffered a tremendous impact with the attacks of violent extremists, nevertheless we will continue to invest in Cabo Delgado, we will continue to work with the communities of this province," promised Rahim Bangy, of that Foundation.

Created in March 2020 with the mandate to promote actions for socio-economic development in Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa,



the Integrated Development Agency of Northern Mozambique (ADIN) was represented by Prof. João Machatine, Coordinator of the Program Management Unit of Communication and Cross-Cutting Issues. In his speech, he requested support from international partners for the opening of rural roads that would be used for the flow of agricultural products.

He also argued that public institutions should be supported to deepen knowledge about the causes of the conflict, as a way to gain a better understanding of the phenomenon of violent extremism. "We took note that reconstruction does not only mean rehabilitating buildings, but also rebuilding the social tissue," Prof. João Machatine said.



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