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Switzerland and the United Kingdom reaffirm their support for the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique

- The commitment was reiterated during a multilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the Plenary of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative, which took place between March 24 and 26, 2026, in London. The meeting brought together representatives from the Mozambican delegation, the Initiative's secretariat, and the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as other international partners who have supported the country since 2021 in advancing this agenda.





The meeting provided a unique opportunity to assess and reaffirm existing commitments, allowing for the alignment of expectations, recognition of progress, and discussion of the next steps in implementing the Voluntary Principles in the country.

On the Mozambican side, a delegation led by the Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, Mateus Saize, participated, including representatives from the Directorate of Citizenship and Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Defence, the Institutional Communication Office of the Presidency of the Republic, and the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD), which acts as the initiative's secretariat in the country. The meeting also included the presence of the High Commissioner of Mozambique to the United Kingdom, Albertina Mac Donald, and the First Secretary attached to the High Commission, Simião Matavele.

On the side of international partners, Switzerland was represented by Dagmar Schmidt

Tartagli, Head of Human Rights, Democracy and Humanitarian Diplomacy at the Federal Foreign Office, and by Frédéric Chenais, Senior Advisor at the same department. The United Kingdom, in turn, was represented by a delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), composed of Christabel Sadgrove, Head of the Business and Human Rights Team, Joan Fontaine, Security and Human Rights Policy Advisor, and Adriano Tuzine, Senior Prosperity and Economic Development Officer.

During the meeting, the partners acknowledged the progress achieved by Mozambique since the beginning of its engagement in the initiative. Among the highlighted advances were the creation of working groups at the national and provincial levels, as well as the implementation of awareness-raising and capacity-building actions aimed at public, private, and community actors. These efforts culminated in 2024 with Mozambique's admission as an engaged member of the Initiative.

International partners have also expressed in-

terest and willingness to continue supporting the country, particularly in the process of developing the National Action Plan (PAN) for the Implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

The message was received positively by the Mozambican delegation, which expressed appreciation for the consistent support from partners, including resources and technical assistance, over the past five years, emphasizing that the progress achieved is the result of a joint and sustained effort.

Among the main points discussed, the need for PAN to be more than just a document was highlighted. Opinions converged that it should be conceived as a dynamic, participatory, and multi-sectoral process capable of actively involving all relevant actors. It was also emphasized that dialogue should be anchored in communities, particularly those where violations occur

and where the impacts of business activities are most felt.

Concern for communities emerged as a central theme of the discussion, focusing on how the Voluntary Principles can generate concrete positive impacts at the local level. The need to foster trust between businesses, the state, and communities was also emphasized as an essential condition for preventing conflicts and ensuring respect for human rights.

The implementation process of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique is being led nationally by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, which assumes strategic leadership and prioritizes the process in alignment with the country's dynamics and needs. Support from international partners plays a complementary role, contributing primarily through the sharing of experiences, resource mobilization, and technical advice.



MISSÃO:
Inspirar e impulsionar ações para proteger os direitos humanos, fortalecer a democracia e promover a justiça.

MISSION:
Inspiring and driving actions to protect human rights, strengthen democracy, and promote justice.



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