STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on the General elections in Mozambique

"We welcome the generally peaceful conduct of presidential, legislative and provincial elections on 15 October in Mozambique. We would like to commend the voters and the political forces of Mozambique for their active participation in these elections and the National Electoral Commission (CNE) for having organised them effectively and simultaneously. We also recognise the efforts of the many civil society organisations to promote transparency during the elections.

We take note of the EU Election Observation Mission's preliminary assessment according to which the electoral process has thus far been conducted in an orderly manner, despite a number of regrettable but isolated incidents of violence on the election day. While the recent consensual electoral reform promoted an inclusive process, we note that there were some areas where the playing field remained uneven, including with respect to access to media. The shortcomings that have been identified will need to be addressed in line with the recommendations from the EU and other international and domestic election observation missions.

We hope that any dispute addressed to the National Elections Commission or to the relevant judicial mechanisms will be dealt fairly and swiftly and we appeal to all parties to continue demonstrating a peaceful and democratic spirit, using existing legal means to address possible grievances."
We also call on all political parties and their leaders as well as the citizens to continue promoting dialogue as a basis for an open and inclusive political system where both the government and the opposition can effectively play their respective indispensable roles. The EU Election Observation Mission will remain in the country to follow the tabulation process and the handling of possible complaints.

The EU looks forward to continuing its strong partnership with Mozambique with the aim of supporting the country's democratic, social and economic development. In this regard, the EU supports all efforts to implement the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on 5 September and the ongoing dialogue between the Government and Renamo. The millions of Mozambican citizens who have chosen to participate peacefully in these elections have passed a clear message to all political leaders."