



República de Moçambique

Statement by  
HE Amb. Pedro Comissário  
Permanent Representative of Mozambique  
to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations  
at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties to the Oslo Convention  
On Item 8 (c) of the provisional agenda  
Geneva, 4-6 September 2017

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambican wishes to express its sincere gratitude to you, Mr. President, for your most effective leadership as President of the 7<sup>th</sup> MSP as well as for the able manner in which you have been conducting our deliberations. We extend our thanks to the Organising Committee, to the ISU Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba, and her team for the job well done in the preparation of this important meeting. A word of special appreciation to Ms. Sheila Mweemba for the excellent way she has been managing the ISU in these times of scarce resources.

Mr. President, allow me to pay tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, of the Netherlands for the superb work he performed as president of the 6<sup>th</sup> MSP.

We warmly welcome Benin and Madagascar to the family of CCM.

Excellencies,

The Mozambican Government has always given particular attention to the Mine Action Program and to the program of clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants. We did so bearing in mind our national priorities and our commitment for compliance with international obligations under the Ottawa Convention and Oslo Convention, two important legal instruments in the area of international humanitarian disarmament.

You will recall that following the attainment of peace in the country, the Government of Mozambique took a firm decision to prioritize demining and disposal of cluster munitions remnants of war, as one of the key objectives of its domestic policy. It was in this context that, together with the international community, including friendly states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, the Government outlined an ambitious program aimed at demining and clearing cluster munitions in the country in as short period of time as feasible.

At the center of that decision was the notion that land mines and cluster munitions represented a serious threat not only to the safety of our people, but also to the social and economic development of the communities and populations at large. Therefore, the launch of the demining and cluster munitions clearance programs were key endeavors in getting the country free of the scourge of these tools of silent war and death.

As you are aware, such efforts were crowned with success in September 2015, for demining, and in November 2016, for the clearing cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following our full compliance with Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty in 2015, Mozambique embarked upon an expeditious programme aiming at ensuring that we would also honour our obligations under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In this connection, in October 2015, with the support of the Norwegian Government, through the Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), Mozambique carried out a five-month comprehensive national survey to establish a baseline for cluster munitions contamination in the country. The survey covered four provinces, namely, Gaza, Manica, Tete, and Niassa. These provinces had been subjected to aerial bombardment during the periods of war in the country.

The survey established a total of 10 areas that were confirmed to have cluster munitions contamination in the provinces of Manica and Tete. Fortunately, the provinces of Gaza and Niassa were found to have no contamination. The area confirmed with contamination measured approximately 800,000 square meters, comprising a total of 21 districts and 89 Communities.

The programme managed to clear and release 1,385,947 square meters through surface and subsurface clearance techniques.

With this action, we have come to the end of our efforts to clear all known cluster munitions contaminated areas.

Mr. President,

We, therefore, wish to declare before this august Assembly that Mozambique has fulfilled her obligations under Article 4 of the

Convention on Cluster Munitions, slightly before the 2021 deadline that we had imposed on ourselves.

In the same vain, I am duty bound to inform this meeting that following the completion of cluster munitions remnants clearance, there has been no new findings of cluster munitions remnants in the country.

Using its residual capacities, within the Police and National Demining Institute, Mozambique pledges that she will continue to be vigilant in regard to any possible future occurrence.

There are a few important lessons that our Government has drawn from these long and exacting processes of demining and cluster munitions clearance. Among others, the following could be mentioned. First, is the need for a strong political commitment on the part of the leadership. Second, the imperative of translating the political commitment into a concrete, credible, and feasible national program of action. Third, the crucial role that the international cooperation has to play. Fourth, the engagement in the program of the affected people and communities.

I wish to conclude, Mr. President, by reiterating Mozambique's full political commitment to the object and purpose of both international humanitarian disarmament conventions, as the international community has just embarked upon the implementation of 2030 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

It is our belief that our compliance with the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions constitutes a significant milestone and a meaningful contribution to the global efforts towards the eradication of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions clearance.

I thank you.