



República de Moçambique

**STATEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE  
AT THE 4<sup>th</sup> REVIEW CONFERENCE  
OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION  
GENERAL DEBATE**

*Delivered by*

**His Excellency Mr. Joel Sele,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Norway  
Head of Delegation**

*Item 6: Renewing the political commitment to the Convention*

Oslo, 29 November 2019

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, we wish to join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. President, and other members of the bureau, upon your appointment for presiding over the 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of Mine Ban Convention.

You can rest assured of my delegation's support and cooperation for the smooth proceeding of this milestone Conference.

Mr. President,

Ever since the end of the armed struggle for liberation and the war o destabilization, the Government of Mozambique had demining as a key objective to be undertaken. It was in this context that together with the international community and concerned International Organizations, the Government outlined an ambitious, but realistic vision aimed at demining the country in a relatively short period of time.

Such resolve resulted in the Mine Action Program and the implementation of the National Plan for Mine Action 2008-2014, in compliance with our international obligations, under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Convention.

That was the only option Mozambique had, if the country was to embark on a development process with her People free of anti - personnel land mine imminent threat, thus with human security preserved. Indeed, we were aware of the threat that mines posed not only to the safety of the People, but also to the socio and economic livelihood of the populations in the country. Therefore, the launch of the demining program was a key initiative in ridding the country of the

scourge of mines and also guaranteeing a safe and sound environment for the affected communities.

Following the successful implementation of the National Plan for Mine Action 2008-2014, demining activities resulted in the release of three thousand, three hundred thirty hazardous areas, measuring approximately fifty-five million square meters of land; over ninety thousand ERW-Mines were recovered and destroyed.

It should be noted that most of these formerly mined areas were around key national development infrastructure, particularly dams of Cahora Bassa and Chicamba, electricity transmission pylons to the cities of Maputo and Beira, Railway lines to Salamanga and Machipanda, among others; in other words, strategic infra-structures areas.

These facts are telling of the scope of the Demining Program in Mozambique, once one of the largest mine contaminated countries in the world.

With these results, Mozambique has become the first of the five most affected countries by anti-personnel mines to declare herself free of land mines, in the fulfillment of Article 5, as we had the honor to announce before the 14 MSP, in 2015. Mozambique is also part of the Group of 31 states parties that have completed mine clearance obligations, over the past 20 years.

In complying with article 5, we estimate to have significantly contributed to the global efforts towards the eradication of anti-personnel mines. It is also a manifestation of the commitments made by Mozambique under the Nairobi, Cartagena and Maputo Action Plans.

In declaring compliance with Article 5, we pledged to keep states parties informed of any discovery of previously unknown mined areas in a transparent fashion.

Mr. President,

It is a fact of life that success comes always with challenges. Indeed, we continue facing the challenge of integrating the large number of deminers into alternative employment. The integration process requires support and resources from the international partners in providing alternative vocational trainings and skills development.

We are also faced with the need to identifying appropriate solutions to meet the challenges of the post-clearance period in the country, particularly aimed at consolidating the excellent results of our Humanitarian Demining Program. We believe that with the cooperation of international community and involvement in the creation of national capacity and technical conditions for management of residual contamination, we will succeed.

We would be remiss if we did not reiterate our most heartfelt thanks and our profound appreciation to Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, the European Union and UN agencies such as UNDP, UNMAS and UNICEF as well as the ISU, GICHD, ICRC and ICBL, for their unwavering support to our Demining Program.

Turning to the core subject of this conference, we welcome the Review Document, the Draft Action Plan and the Draft Political Declaration, to which Mozambique had the opportunity to contribute.

The Review Document is self-explanatory of the strides made in the implementation of Mine Ban Convention, as well as of the Maputo Action Plan. But it is also eloquent of what needs to be done, if we are to achieve the goal of *Mine Free World*, by 2025, as committed in the Maputo Political Declaration.

In this vain, we highly appreciate the fact that the Draft Action Plan seeks to address the constraints and the challenges the implementation process of the Mine Ban Convention was faced with,

in the last 5 years. In particular, we welcome the synergies with sister conventions and other United Nations instruments, frameworks and programs, with particular focus on the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals; International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws; and the Global Compact on Refugees.

We commend the innovation of the Draft Action Plan, through insertion of **indicators** which will permit us to track progresses; identify constraints and challenges as well as the best strategies to address them. Furthermore, we are satisfied with the direct linkages between the proposed actions and corresponding indicators.

It is of crucial importance that the Draft Action Plan is aligned with both pillars of Mine Action and of Mine Victims' Assistance, apart from socio economic integration of mine survivors, in light of SDG's principles of *leave no one behind* and *inclusion*.

In any event, it is obvious that the successful implementation of the next Action Plan will depend, to the large extent, on the allocation of resources commensurate to proposed actions.

We will provide additional inputs to the Draft Action Plan, under relevant agenda item, if need be.

In concluding, Mr. President, we wish to reiterate Mozambique's political commitment and resolve in contributing to the realization of the objectives of the Mine Ban Convention, a milestone humanitarian instrument, above all.

I thank you, Mr. President!