



República de Angola

STATEMENT OF ANGOLA AT THE 4th REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE MINE BAN TREATY

Delivered by

Santana Andre Pitra "Petroff"

Head of Delegation

OSLO, NORWAY, November 2019

FINAL VERSION
SPEECH plenary

Madam Chairwoman

Mr. Presidente.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since it is the first time my delegation take the floor join the others to

On behalf of the Angolan Government delegation, allow me to express our congratulations and gratitude to Norway and the organising committee for organising this 4th review conference of the Mine Ban Treaty.

It is also my pleasure to congratulate other delegations on their solidarity to the Treaty and upon their statements.

Mr(s) Chair(wo)man,

The Angolan Government has always given particular importance to its international obligations under the Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

After the end of protracted periods of political instability, Angola is painfully aware of the threat that mines pose not only to the safety of Angolans, but also to the socio-economic livelihood of communities and the population of the country. Therefore, Angola's compliance with Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty will be a significant contribution to its national development as well as to global efforts towards the eradication of anti-personnel mines and international humanitarian disarmament. It will also further demonstrate Angola's commitment to the Nairobi, Cartagena, and Maputo and Oslo Action Plans.

Mr. Chairman.

Following Angola's 2018 extension request and recommendations of the Article 5 Committee, it has undertaken an ^{even more} ambitious transformation of its approach to the management and coordination of the mine action sector. The positive impact of this work was seen first hand by Prince Harry when he visited Angola in September, tracing his mother's footsteps and seeing the transformation of mined areas into thriving communities.

Completion of non-technical survey in all 18 provinces of Angola has provided much-needed clarity on the remaining mine contamination. These efforts would not have been possible without the support of our implementing partners - the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), The HALO Trust, and APOPO - and we would like to express our gratitude to them.

and the public operator CENIDAH existence and

With a better understanding of the remaining mine contamination challenge, Angola, in partnership with GICHD and other implementing partners, has established a new National Mine Action Strategy and Demining Work Plan to guide the activities of the mine action sector for the period 2020-2025.

It is also important to note that, with support of the UK Aid capacity development project, Angola has also ensured that the national IMSMA database is fully reconciled with all operators' databases, and the previous data backlog and overrated figures that haunted the country have now been cleared. Angola is proud to state that we now have a reliable national database.

Mr Chairman

Thanks to the improvement in data, Angola has been able to cancel, reduce and clear a further 31 million square metres of mine contamination. The remaining mine contamination in Angola is now estimated at 92 million square metres. This is tremendous progress in comparison to the contamination levels reported during our 2018²⁰¹⁷ extension request.

This success is also due to the tireless commitment and political will of the Angolan government to eradicate the landmine contamination of the country by observing best practices in coordinating demining activities and promoting systematic interaction between demining organisations and affected communities. This not only supports clearance activities, but also provides essential mine awareness education.

This progress is testimony of the centrality of Angola's partnership with international governmental and non-governmental partners, national organisations and sister government institutions. Angola also recognises the contribution of its donor partners who have given much-needed financing to enable demining work. Our appreciation goes to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Ireland and to the United Nations and the European Union for their tireless support.

Mr Chairman

Despite the significant progress to rid Angola of mine contamination, challenges remain: There are 1103 CHA and 94 SHA totalling 1197 hazardous areas in a total land area of 92 million square metres still have to be cleared.

Alongside the Angolan government's financial commitment, we estimate that a further 213 million USD is still needed to complete clearance. Divided over the next five years to 2025, this means a little under 40³⁶ million USD per year.

As residual contamination is likely for any State whose territory has been extensively subject to the use of explosive ordinance (EO), Angola is addressing the issue of residual risk across the country. With the provinces of Huambo, Malange, and Namibe approaching completion, Angola is initiating the process of establishing a residual risk management capacity in the country to take care of any future challenges of this sort.

Mr Chairman

In response to increased economic challenges and constraints, the Government of Angola is seeking to reform and diversify the nation's economy. To do so, it is essential that land can be used safely to develop agriculture, support industry, enable the movement of people and goods, and welcome tourists to see Angola's unique unspoiled nature. To this end, the Government of Angola has recently committed 60 million USD over five years to the clearance of an area of special natural significance with a view to creating a sustainable, community-focused ecotourism centre and ~~begin~~ the process of diversifying the country's economy.

With a National Demining Strategy and Action Plan in place and significant political will, Angola calls upon its donor partners to support the demining process for its successful conclusion in order to ensure that Angola and its people can enjoy a safe and prosperous future without the fear of mines.

~~For those of you who would like to know more about what we are doing and what support we need, I invite you to our side event tomorrow.~~

Mr Chairman

I would like to end by repeating Angola's commitment to the full implementation of its obligations to the Mine Ban Treaty, and implementation of its commitment to the Oslo Action Plan. The Angolan government remains committed to ensuring that 2025 becomes a reality.

Thank you!