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**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**  
**MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS E COOPERAÇÃO**

**Speech**

Delivered by  
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At the II Meeting for the States Parties to the Convention on  
Cluster Munitions

**Beirut, September, 2011**

**H.E. Dr. Adnan Mansour**

*M. President*

**Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Republic of Lebanon**

**President of the II Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to address this item agenda of the II meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to join previous speakers in expressing my gratitude to the people and the Government of Lebanon for having acceded to host such an important gathering and for the excellent and inspiring conditions put at our disposal.

I would also like to congratulate you, Excellency, upon your unanimous election to preside over this Meeting. I wish to assure you of my delegation's full support and collaboration for the successful discharge of your noble task.

I also wish to commend your predecessor, His Excellency. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic for the dynamic manner in which he presided over the I meeting and to Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhom, Assistant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic for the focused manner that the preparatory Meeting was conducted, and for

laying the foundations for the successful outcome of this gathering.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This meeting is taking place in a very special moment of the international joint efforts, initiated in Oslo in February 2007, which led a year later to the conclusion, at the International Diplomatic Conference in Dublin, of the agreed text, which became the future convention. These remarkable steps were determinant to generate the political momentum to advance the willingness and need to end the unnecessary suffering of civilians caused by the effects of cluster munitions.

The Oslo historic Signature Ceremony was a recognition of the worldwide well wishers aimed at prohibiting the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. This event was honoured by 48 Governments/member states.

At this junction, I wish to share with you that the Government of the Republic of Mozambique is proud to be part of this process since its inception and witness the convention building up as a reflection of our full commitment to embrace causes that contribute for the enhancement of the International Humanitarian Law which stresses the importance of establishing distinction between civilians and military objects, civilian and combatants during military operations.

Indeed, more than four years have elapsed. When we look back we are proud of having achieved important progress in such short period of time. The entry into force of this convention at 1

August 2010 represents a victory, since the convention is one of the major humanitarian successes. It comes at a right time to complement other existing international humanitarian legal instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We congratulate the choice of the theme “together for a safer life” under which our work will be carried out. The issue of human safety constitutes a top agenda of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, based on our experience not long back, whereby we were confronted with severe humanitarian consequences in the aftermath of 16 year war, a direct result of land-mines and other remnants of war that left large portions of the country side contaminated. This spectrum inspired the Government of Republic of Mozambique to play a leading role in the context of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

The intercessional meeting recently held in Geneva, laid the ground for the convention’s effective implementation by establishing an effective monitoring system.

At this junction the Convention calls for increased support by all of us. We cannot afford to let it fail. Otherwise, the consequences would be dramatic for humanity. It is one of the most important pillars that support the existing humanitarian laws.

We are gathering here, at this historic city of Beirut to, first of all, evaluate the progress made so far within the Vientiane Action Plan, which merits for pioneering the convention’s

operationalization with its 66 concrete actions to that end.

Subsequently, we must be focused on drawing experiences and define the right course of action that will reinvigorate the Convention and lead us through the path of success in the fulfilment of its noble goal – to make the world a better and safer place to live.

For that end we shall endeavour to evaluate the operation and status of the Convention, renew our commitment by sending a clear political message against the production and stockpiling of cluster munitions. We shall give appropriate priority action to international cooperation and victims and survivors assistance.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Throughout the Oslo process the Republic of Mozambique considered as a wrong choice the use of cluster munitions in any circumstances. Bearing in mind this perspective we decided to endorse the Oslo Declaration, the Wellington Declaration and it was deeply involved in the negotiation of the African Common Position that resulted in the Livingstone Declaration.

Against this background, the country moved forward to the final step which was the ratification. Indeed it took place, in the month of February 2011. As a result we are bounded to its obligation as from the first of the current month.

Effectively, this ratification represents a step forward towards a full realization of our political will expressed at the time of our signature at Oslo Treaty Sign Ceremony, as well as the comprehensive fulfilment of the convention provisions.

Furthermore, this convention within the country framework is meant to match with the ongoing activities under National Mine Action.

In addition and within the Mozambican national development strategy, it can be noted with satisfaction the ongoing efforts aiming to eradicate land mines and cluster munitions. With this in mind we are pursuing a conducive environment to maintain the existing economic stability, enhancing the living standards of our people and allow the conduct of normal economic and social development activities, especially in rural areas, ultimate development

Despite our willingness to accelerate the path towards a complete eradication of landmines as well as cluster munitions, we regret to share with you dear delegates, that due to the global financial crisis, like many countries, we have faced financial constraints resulting in a drastic reduction of financial support to carry out our national programmes and development agenda.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to continue engaged in the international efforts to rid the world of the deadly cluster bombs.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!