



República de Moçambique

**STATEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE
BEFORE THE 1st REVIEW CONFERENCE ON
THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Delivered by

**His Excellency Mr. Pedro Comissário,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva
Head of Delegation**

Dubrovnik, Croatia, 7th September 2015

Mr. President,

Honorable Ministers

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mozambican delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your unanimous election to preside over the proceedings of the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are certain that with your wide and well-known political and diplomatic experience, our Conference will be crowned with success.

I would like to express my delegation's deep gratitude and appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Croatia for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival at this beautiful city of Dubrovnik. Mozambique shares with Croatia strong ties of friendship and cooperation forged during the times of our liberation struggle. We therefore commend Croatia for successfully hosting this important First Review Conference.

We thank Costa Rica, President of the last Meeting of States Parties for the job well-done.

We wholeheartedly congratulate our dear sister Sheila Mwemba for the well-deserved appointment as Director of ISU.

Mr President,

Mozambique was among the first countries to sign the Convention in Oslo, in 2008. Subsequently, we ratified that legal instrument in 2011. We took those steps first and foremost in our own self-interest as a country that was once ravaged by war. But we also did so as an expression of our strong commitment to join the entire international community in the efforts to ban and fully eradicate the use of the Clusters Munitions and urge for the total destruction of these remnants of war.

In this connection, my delegation stands here today before this august Assembly with the main purpose of reporting and providing a brief update on the status of the implementation of the Convention in our country.

Mr. President,

At the last Meeting of States Parties, we announced that our country had already separated all cluster munitions from other operational munitions and marked them for destruction. In 2013, and with the support of the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Mozambique initiated a work that has now resulted in the destruction of all cluster munitions held in the stockpiles of the Mozambique Armed Defence Forces.

During the process of Mine Clearance in Mozambique, together with the Halo Trust, we identified seven areas measuring 74,472 square meters in the province of Manica that had contamination of cluster munitions. Our Government, through the National Demining Institute, further tasked the Halo Trust to demolish the identified items. This action resulted in 34 alpha bomblets being recovered and demolished.

Although we are reasonably confident that a lot of the cluster munition remnants have been cleared over the years of active ERW-Mine clearance interventions in the country, we feel the need for a final and

more systematic survey process to be carried out that would eliminate any possible doubts or questions on the matter.

In this regard, and in order to fully implement her commitment to article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, in June 2015, Mozambique undertook, in partnership with the Norwegian Peoples Aid, a thorough and vigorous 6 months Cluster Munition Remnants Survey Project in the Provinces that might still be contaminated, particularly the provinces of Gaza, Manica, and Tete.

So far, the survey of the Gaza Province has been completed, with no indication, whatsoever, of any existence of Cluster Munitions Remnants. This endeavour will be concluded in December 2015, with a detailed and a global report on the findings for the three provinces.

It is, however, our firm determination that the National Demining Institute should continue to gather relevant information on areas where cluster munitions were used in Mozambique, and confirm that these areas no longer contain any cluster munitions remnants.

As previously mentioned in the 2014 Statement of Mozambique on Stockpile Destruction, the National Demining Institute and Mozambique Army Engineering Brigade Unit, in collaboration with the Norwegian Peoples Aid undertook the demolition of the last known Cluster Munition Stockpiles in Nacala, Nampula Province. This intervention has resulted in the demolition of 199 RBK250 PTB bombs with a total of 8,358 sub munitions and 09 RBK250-AO-1SCH bombs with a total of 1,350 sub munitions.

We thus believe that with that thorough action, Mozambique is on the verge of fully complying with article three of our Convention.

Mr. President,

Allow me that I summarize the main thrust of our message as follows. With the successful completion of the demolition of the last known

stockpile in Nacala and the ongoing Cluster Munitions Remnants Survey Project in Gaza, Manica and Tete provinces, we are confident that Mozambique is on the right path of ensuring compliance with article 4 of the convention by no later than 2016.

Mr. President,

Twice in our lifetime, we have known and experienced the scourge of war in Mozambique. We therefore cherish the principles and purposes that enshrined in the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is in this context that we hold the conviction that the universalization of the said Convention is of paramount importance. We appeal to those states that have not yet ratified or acceded to this important legal instrument to ratify it or accede to it as a matter of urgency.

In the same vein, Mozambique wishes to strongly express its support to the Dubrovnik Political Declaration and Plan of Action as submitted by the President of this Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President!