



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**2nd MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**Statement of Mozambique on
Cooperation and Assistance**

Mr. President, *Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen*

The Government of Mozambique was an early supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and has acted quickly to sign and ratify this convention. As a result, the Convention entered into force in Mozambique on 1 September 2011. It is the intention of the Government of Mozambique to fully implement all obligations under the new Convention. Allow me today to provide a short overview of our obligations and where we believe we could benefit from the cooperation and assistance of other States Parties.

Unfortunately, Cluster Munitions were used during the conflict in Mozambique. During clearance operations in Mozambique, the National Institute for Demining and various demining operators have identified and destroyed Cluster Munition remnants in the Provinces of Tete, Manica, Gaza and Maputo.

These included submunitions from the RBK-250 and CB-470 containers. Based on the information currently available, we believe the use of these weapons was limited and that clearance of unexploded submunitions can be managed within the scope of the existing mine action programme. However, further survey work is required to identify the exact scope of the problem. We are all aware that unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war will continue to threaten the safety of the people of Mozambique long after the government completes its obligation to clear all known anti-personal landmines under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. One of the goals of the current National Mine Action Programme is therefore to build a national capacity capable of addressing the residual threat of UXO and ERW. Exactly how much of the residual ERW problem is due to cluster munitions remnants has yet to be determined.

In this regard, we would be very grateful if State Parties in a position to do so could provide any technical data on previous cluster munitions strikes within the territory of Mozambique that may be available in their military archives.

Under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Mozambique will also have a new obligation to identify and assist the victims of cluster munitions. Like landmine victims, cluster munition victims will be assisted in the overall framework of assistance to people with disability that is provided by the Ministries of Health, Women and Social Affairs, Education and Labor through implementation of a multisectorial plan of action on disability. In Mozambique it is estimated that there are approximately 2% of the people with disabilities. We are already aware that a significant number of these people are considered landmines victims. Further survey work will need to be conducted to determine how many are cluster munition victims.

Mr. President,

As you have heard today, Mozambique is still in the early days of implementing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. At the same time, we remain determined to meet our obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and believe that much of the work of implementing our CCM obligations can be managed under the existing mine action programme. However, additional resources will

be required to conduct the survey work and research needed to determine the exact scope of the work ahead. As always, we would be grateful for any assistance from other States Parties and the international community to aid us in meeting the tremendous challenges we still face in meeting our obligations under both the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Vientiane Action Plan.

Thank you.

Beirut, 15 September 2011