



REPUBLICA DE MOCAMBIQUE

Third Meeting of States Parties Convention on Cluster Munitions

**Statement by the Head of Delegation,
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Oslo, 11 September 2012

Ambassador Steffen Kongstad,
President of the III Meeting of the State Parties

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me and my delegation to be in Oslo, the cradle of the convention, to participate in third meeting of the State Parties of Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I would like to express my delegation's gratitude to your Government, Mr. President, for hosting this important gathering and for the Norwegian hospitality.

Your dynamism and commitment during the preparation of the III MSP testifies our belief that as president surely you will live up to our expectations and to the expectation of the peace loving people the world over.

My delegation wishes to express its recognition to the President of the II MSP Dr. Adnam Mansour, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon for his active role in the promotion of the objectives enshrined in the Convention.

Equally I wish to commend our sister country, Zambia, for having accepted to hold the IV MSP CCM.

It is a fact that we are here today to assess the progress in the implementation of the decisions we adopted in Vientiane, establish how far we have gone since the meeting in Beirut, identify where the major challenges lie and determine what ought to be done to overcome them.

The presence of a large number of delegations in Oslo appeases our minds and boosts our confidence that a successful outcome of the Conference is within reach, and also heightens our resolve to seize the generated momentum to further the implementation of Convention.

We are reminded that in Vientiane and in Beirut, as we renewed our commitment to the Convention, we underscored the need to continue to work intensely for the Universalisation of the Convention, a goal that remains the cornerstone of our endeavours to uphold its objectives and values.

We also stressed the urgency of cluster munitions clearance and victims assistance as one of the leading humanitarian and moral objective contained in the Convention.

We emphasized the importance of stockpile destruction as one of the vital requirements under the Convention. Above all, we loudly drew attention to the imperative need to put an end to the production and transfer of cluster munitions.

Looking back, I dare to say that we managed to make progress. Worrisome as it still may be, the burden posed by cluster munitions today is not at the same level as it was in 2008, when we came to Oslo to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions, nor is it the same compared to the time we met in Venetian, neither the same when we went to Beirut.

As time goes by it is becoming increasingly harder to ignore the existence of the Convention even by States that are not yet signatories to the Convention. The Convention brings such a moral weight that the number of belligerents that still insist in using cluster munitions is decreasing and those who have used them find it harder to justify the worthiness of their actions.

Actually, stigmatization became such an effective tool of disincentive against the use of these indiscriminate weapons.

In the last twelve months the number of states that ratified the Convention increased by 16%. And dozens of other States have indicated their intention to ratify.

Furthermore, one third of the State Parties have now either adopted or are in the process of developing legislation relating to the Convention's implementation.

At this juncture I would like to express my delegation's congratulations to Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Mauritania, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo and Trinidad and Tobago, for completing ratification since the second meeting of states parties.

My delegation calls upon those States that did not sign or ratify the Convention to do so. We fail to find an acceptable reasoning to believe that somewhere there's a single valid argument to stay away from the Convention.

I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to the implementation of the Convention. On its behalf, Mozambique will implement its obligations in accordance with the Convention. Specifically we will destroy our stockpile of cluster munitions, clear all known areas contaminated with unexploded submunitions and ensure assistance to victims of cluster munitions.

It is significant that more than 60% of stockpiles declared by States Parties have already been destroyed. We congratulate those states that have already completed their stockpile destruction and those that have already started.

The implementation of the Convention on cluster munitions is today an irreversible process. The lives of the victims of cluster munitions, the shattered dreams of many innocent peoples, and the vision of those states that sat around a table here in Oslo and signed the 2007 Oslo Declaration, are being vindicated.

It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the Convention effectively plays its preventive role in protecting civilians against the harmful effects of cluster munitions.

Mozambique does not manufacture this type of weapon. As a country that fell victim of these weapons at one time in its history, Mozambique upholds the objectives of the Convention, first, because the country believes that the Convention responds to its national strategy of pursuing economic and social development in an environment of enhanced security to its people.

Secondly, because we believe that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is the best option to ensure that these

insidious weapons do not proliferate, a situation that would bear unpredictable consequences.

Thirdly, we believe the convention complements the body of international legal instruments that sustain the international humanitarian law and international legal instruments on the protection of civilians in times of armed conflicts.

Last but not least, because we believe we have to be part of this overall international partnership, a partnership driven by a single and noble objective, to rid the world from these redundant and hazardous military artefacts.

We sincerely congratulate Member States, the UN System, The Cluster munitions Coalition (CMC), The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for persistently having managed to sustain workable and result oriented partnership.

In this partnership lies the spirit of the Convention, lies the strength of the Convention.

We all are aware that despite progress, there are still challenges to be overcome.

We shall increase the pace in which we knit the progress. We shall refine our strategies to enhance the universality of the Convention. We shall endeavour to work towards the goal of bringing the states that manufacture or maintain considerable stockpiles on board.

It is abhorrent to notice that belligerents still resort to the use of cluster munitions. Even if it is at a limited scale, it is intolerable.

Cluster munitions clearance and Victim assistance are dear to my country. They require innovative ideas from all of us on how to mobilize resources in a world besieged by economic and financial volatility.

We shall work in a fashion to prevent or minimize the possibility of states resorting to extension request provisions.

Mr. President,

The road we have covered so far shows how strong our resolve is to impose a total ban on cluster munitions. Our resolve and our partnership will give us strength and wisdom to overcome the challenges ahead of us no matter how complex and ominous they are.

I thank you.