



## REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

### **3rd MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

#### **Statement of Mozambique on Clearance and Risk Reduction**

by the Head of Delegation,  
Mr. Elias Jaime Zimba, Minister Plenipotenciary,  
Charge D’Affairs a.i  
Permanent Mission of Mozambique to  
the United Nations

Mr. President,

The Government of Mozambique was an early supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and has acted quickly to sign and ratify this convention. The Government of Mozambique reiterates its intention to fully implement all obligations under the new Convention. One of these obligations is the clearance of cluster munitions remnants that were unfortunately used during the conflict in Mozambique.

During demining 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 some unexploded submunitions from RBK-250 and CB-470 containers. This information was included in Form F of our initial Transparency Report, that was already submitted to the UN Office of Disarmament.

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. As part of the Government of Mozambique's Mine Free District Process, survey teams from the demining operators visit every community to identify any areas suspected of containing landmines or unexploded ordnance. Through this process we are confident that we will discover any areas containing cluster munition remnants. Once these areas are identified, demining operators perform non-technical survey and technical surveys of the areas before conducting any clearance or Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

In accordance with our Article 5 obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Government of Mozambique is intent on completing

all demining operations by 1 March 2014. As part of our existing mine action programme, we believe we will also identify and clear any areas contaminated with unexploded submunitions within the same time period. We therefore believe we will complete obligations under the Article 4 of the Convention of Cluster Munitions well ahead of our 2021 deadline.

In order to reduce the risk posed by cluster munitions to local communities, the National Demining Institute and various demining operators in Mozambique conduct regular Mine Risk Education sessions that include information on cluster munitions as well as other explosive remnants of war. During 2011, the National Demining Institute conducted 92 MRE sessions that were attended by approximately 12,694 local people in 15 districts of 7 provinces. The National Demining Institute and the demining operators in Mozambique regularly mark hazardous areas suspected of containing explosive remnants of war and inform the local population as part of survey and clearance work. Various signs and markers are used to alert people that an area is suspected to contain landmines and other explosive remnants of war. No accidents involving cluster munitions were reported during this period.

One of the challenges Mozambique faces to fulfill its Article 4 obligations is obtaining better and more accurate information on the use of cluster munitions in Mozambique in order to better quantify the risk and work ahead. The National Demining Institute has therefore modified its reporting templates in order to ensure that demining operators provide specific information on cluster munitions when they are discovered in the field. In addition, we are also kindly requesting State Parties in a position to do so to provide any technical data on previous cluster munitions strikes within the territory of Mozambique that may be available in their military archives. In this manner, we intend to better quantify how much of the residual Unexploded Ordnance problem in Mozambique is due to cluster munitions remnants.

Mr. President,

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 assist us in meeting our obligations under both the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Thank you.

Oslo, 13 September 2012