



## REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

### **4th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

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

Delivered by the Head of Delegation,  
Mr. Alberto Augusto, Director of the  
National Demining Institute of Mozambique

Mr. Coordinator,

The Government of Mozambique intends to fully implement all obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including the clearance of cluster munitions remnants that were unfortunately used on a limited scale during the conflict in Mozambique.

As previously reported in Mozambique's annual transparency reports, the National Demining Institute and various demining operators have identified and destroyed cluster munitions remnants during demining operations in the Provinces of Zambezia, Tete, Sofala, Niassa, Manica, Gaza and Maputo. In 2012, as part of demining operations in the provinces of Tete and Manica, the Halo Trust and the Norwegian

People's Aid identified a total of 25 alpha submunitions. These submunitions were destroyed either at the time of their discovery or in follow up explosive ordnance disposal operations in 2013.

Based on the information currently available and the limited numbers of unexploded submunitions identified in demining operations and through the Mine-Free District Evaluations conducted in Mozambique, we believe the use of these weapons was limited and that most of the cluster munitions contamination has already been cleared as part of Mozambique's efforts to clear landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

However, in order to ensure compliance with article 4 of the convention, the National Demining Institute will continue to gather information on areas where cluster munitions were used in Mozambique and confirm that these areas no longer contain any cluster munitions remnants. This process will require a mix of non-technical and technical survey to confirm that the areas have already been cleared. Additional information from our neighbor countries that may have information in their military archives on cluster munitions strikes in the territory of Mozambique, will help us ensure that we identified all

areas where cluster munitions were used. The areas where cluster munitions were used can then be checked against mine action clearance records contained in the National Demining Institute. If any doubts remain, survey teams can be dispatched to the areas to verify and confirm that no threats from unexploded submunitions or other explosive remnants of war remain in the area.

In addition, the National Demining Institute is revising the national mine action standards to include specific guidance on the clearance of cluster munitions remnants. The aim of this revision is to harmonize the approach to clearance of cluster munitions contaminated areas and ensure the recording of data required for reporting under this convention.

Mr. Coordinator,

While we believe the hazard caused by unexploded submunitions is limited, we recognize that further survey work is required to identify the exact scope of the problem and confirm that the threat posed by cluster munitions has already been removed. We believe that through this process of

verification, we can ensure compliance with article 4 of the convention by no later than 2016.

Mr. Coordinator,

Mozambique is still in the early days of implementing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Simultaneously, we remain determined to meet our obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In this context, we 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 cluster munitions threat and verify the removal of any explosive hazards caused by unexploded submunitions. 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.

Lusaka, 12 September 2013