



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

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

General Exchange of Views

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

Your Excellency, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Zambia, President of the 4th Meeting of the States Parties

Representative of the Secretary General of the United
Nations

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me and my delegation to be here in
Lusaka to participate in this Fourth Meeting of the States
Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique, I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to the sister country, Zambia, for having accepted to hold the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties.

I also wish to thank the Government and the People of your beautiful country for the widely known Zambian hospitality accorded to us since our arrival. Indeed, we are grateful to see this important gathering take place in our SADC region.

The dynamism and commitment of Zambia displayed during the preparation of the IV MSP, testifies to our belief, that as president surely will led the conference to a successful outcome, thus, fulfilling the expectations of the peace-loving people the world over.

Equally, my delegation wishes to express its recognition to the H.E. Ambassador Steffen Kongstad for his dynamic and judicious leadership as President of the Third Meeting of the States Parties in Oslo. We thank you, Ambassador, for your tireless and unending efforts to promote the objectives enshrined in the Convention.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a fact that we are here today to assess the progress in the implementation of the convention, identify where the

major challenges lies and determine what ought to be done to overcome them.

The presence of a large number of delegations in Lusaka appeases our minds and boosts our confidence that the objectives of the Conference will be met, and, on the other hand, heightens our resolve to seize the generated momentum to further the implementation of Convention.

During the previous Meeting of the States Parties, 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 objectives contained in the Convention.

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

In retrospect, I believe we managed to make significant progress in a relatively short span of time.

The core values of the Convention are now so pervasive that it is becoming increasingly harder to ignore its existence, even by the 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. However, we sincerely regret the continued use of cluster munitions despite their international condemnation.

I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to the implementation of the Convention and its resolve to implement its obligations. 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.

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 signed the 2007 Oslo Declaration, are being vindicated.

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

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

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 times of financial constraints.

The road we have covered so far shows how strong our commitment is in imposing a total ban on cluster munitions. Our resolve and our partnership will give us strength and wisdom to overcome the challenges, no matter how complex they may be.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I would like to recall that Mozambique will have the privilege of hosting the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, from 29 June to 4 July 2014 in Maputo. This third high-level gathering since the Ottawa Convention entered into force 15 years ago will be an important opportunity to assess the status of efforts to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. As in 1999, when Mozambique

hosted the First Meeting of the States Parties, we look forward to welcoming to Maputo high-level representatives from the other 160 States parties to the Mine Ban Convention, observer nations, international organizations and representatives of civil society. We hope you will all join us for this momentous occasion in the life of the Mine Ban Convention and in our joint efforts to rid the world of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war that cause unacceptable harm to civilian populations.

Muito Obrigado!

Lusaka, 10 September 2013