



República de Moçambique
Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros e Cooperação
Instituto Nacional de Desminagem

**5th MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

San Jose, 4 September 2014

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

Delivered by

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Director of the National Demining Institute

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by expressing the Government of Mozambique's concern at the reports of the continued use of cluster munitions in some countries. We add our voice to our fellow state parties calling for the end of the use of cluster munitions globally.

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 war 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 all destroyed. In June 2014, while conducting the Mine Free District Evaluation of Cahora Bassa District, the survey teams from Norwegian People's Aid identified a confirmed hazardous area with at least 6 visible alpha bomblets. The total contaminated area is estimated to be

approximately 240,000 square meters. The IND has tasked the APOPO demining teams to clear the confirmed hazardous area before the end of 2014.

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.

Mr. President,

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.

Obrigado

San Jose, 4 September 2014