



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

Statement by

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Before the

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

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Mr. Chairman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to express my congratulations to the President of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and pledge our full cooperation with him as he discharges his duties.

We are proud of you Madam Chair, in seeing playing a role in the implementation of the Convention as Chair of the thematic item – General Status and Operations of the Convention.

Last year, we had the opportunity to celebrate the entering into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of Cluster Munitions entered into force after 30 countries had ratified the Convention. Today this number has increased to a total of 57 states that already ratified the convention, including my own country.

In effect, last March 14, Mozambique ratified the Convention closing a chapter that started in Oslo when 46 States in 2008 signed the Oslo Declaration against cluster munitions. The Convention will enter into force for Mozambique on 1st September 2011.

In this context, we are happy to see that the Convention is experience reasonable progress.

We are encouraged by many initiatives taken by States Parties towards these goals. Once again, we wish to applaud those states that have already fulfilled their obligations under article 4 of the Convention, among them Zambia and Albania.

We are also pleased to note that we are rapidly moving towards setting the architecture of the Convention Mechanism of coordination and implementation.

To this regard I wish to commend the holding of the current Inter-sessional Meeting of the Convention as it seeks to lay the grounds for a fruitful outcome of the 2nd States Parties Convention scheduled to take place next September in Lebanon.

For that purpose, we shall endeavour to agree on strong recommendations to the Beirut's Meeting, on victim assistance, clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and risk reduction; on stockpile destruction including retention; universalization; Transparency, National implementation measures; cooperation and Assistance.

At the end of the day we are expected to come out with a draft declaration for 2nd SPM that sets a strong signal and commitment to expedite progress in the implementation of the Convention. We wish, in this context, to commend the President for the presentation of the draft outline of the

Beirut Progress Report which, in our view, forms a good basis for negotiations.

We should not lose sight of the fact that the aim of our exercise is to set out a mechanism that allows the monitoring of measurable steps and actions. Our exercise aims at setting benchmarks which can assist us in turning our vision into reality and our commitments into deeds. Our ultimate goal is a world free of threat of cluster munitions.

States should endeavour to avoid situation that may lead to the request of extension periods.

Remnants of cluster munitions have been identified in Mozambique. Contaminated areas have been delimited in the affected districts along the border with South Africa in the southern part of the country, and along the border with Zimbabwe, in the central area of the country. Some of these remnants are awaiting dismantlement and destruction.

Their removal is already an ongoing process and it occurs in the context of the implementation of the Ottawa convention.

We are confident that we will meet the deadline within the parameters foreseen in the Oslo Convention. Mozambique will require assistance to continue with the program designed for the completion of Cluster Munitions remnants clearance and destruction.

Assistance for victims of cluster munitions is done within the framework of the national legislation on the assistance to persons with physical deficiency which does not discriminate on the causes of the deficiency. There is a national implementation plan for this law for the period of 2011 to 2015.

The magnitude of the impact of cluster munitions is by far less dramatic than the effects caused by land mines. That's why we are still assessing whether we should prepare a parallel plan for cluster munitions clearing and land release.

Nevertheless, we intend to submit periodic reports asserting the progress on this issue.

Before I conclude, I would like to commend the Delegation of Norway for their country's decision to host the 3rd Meeting of the State Parties. It is needless to mention the role played by Norway for the birth of the Oslo Convention.

We are confident that the Convention will bear positive impact and increasingly shape the behaviour of states with regard to temptation to resort or not, to the use of cluster munitions.

I thank you.