



**Statement by Laurinda Banze, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Mozambique, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 30 August to 2 September 2022**

**Item: 10-d) Victim Assistance**

**Mr. President,**

As it is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for your assumption as President of this meeting.

We commend you, Mr. President, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Convention on Cluster Munitions for your efforts in preparing this meeting.

Mozambique was formally declared a mine-free country in 2015 one year after, in 2016 Mozambique was also declared free from cluster munitions contamination.

**Mr. President,**

Allow us therefore to highlight some efforts made by the Government of Mozambique to provide assistance to the victims of mine and cluster munitions.

In Mozambique, the actions for the assistance to the victims are coordinated by the Working Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that involve public institutions, civil society and cooperation partners which together implement programmes and plans aimed at improving the quality of life and promoting participation of the victims in all areas of life without discrimination of any kind.

Mozambique approved a set of regulatory instruments, such as: the Mine Victim Assistance Action Plan (PAAV) and Explosive

Remnants of War (ERG) 2015-2019, which aimed, among other things, to respond to the need for greater visibility of victim assistance actions.

As part of the Government Strategy to continue in assisting the Victims, in 2021 it was decided that there was a need to define a single plan of action for mine and cluster munitions victims, which include all people with disabilities.

The Disability Action Plan under preparation will include the mine casualty's component, which guides interventions globally, taking into account the specificities of the different sectors, basic services for people in an inclusive perspective.

In Mozambique the victims of mine, cluster munitions and people with disabilities generally benefit from all Basic Social Protection Programs implemented in the country as an integral part of Mozambican society. Social assistance programs are characterized by cash and cash transfers, where in recent times the assistance provided to victims has increased in response to COVID 19 and humanitarian emergencies.

**Mr. President,**

In socioeconomic integration, the Government of Mozambique has developed actions to include mine and cluster munitions victims and people with disabilities in vocational courses with appropriate pedagogical, technical and human conditions, in order to facilitating access to employment.

In addition, about 1,591 mine and cluster munitions victims and people with disabilities were integrated into socioeconomic activities, which allowed them to develop self-employment, thus ensuring their self-sustainability.

In the area of health, public education actions are ongoing on prevention of pathologies and hospital care, acquisition of equipment and supplies for the manufacture of devices and locomotion aids, the victims are guaranteed access to rehabilitation services based on the community, medical care and medicines, among others.

In the area of education, teacher training tends to include specific subjects for inclusion in professional courses, and there are colleges that train sign language interpreters.

**Mr. President,**

Despite the progress made, Mozambique still faces challenges in implementing victim assistance activities, such as: the availability of financial resources and the collection, treatment and discrimination of data of the victims according to their age, gender and type of physical impairment in order to provide the assistance according to their need.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we would like to thank the implementation support unit, the coordinators of victim assistance and all partners for the support that has been made available to Mozambique and we reiterate our commitment to the objectives of the Convention.

**Thank you very much!**