

Mr. President  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Since this is the first time that the **Angolan** Delegation takes the floor at this 11MSP, I would like to congratulate you and thank the Government of Cambodia for the wonderful attention.

Excelencies

The heavy landmine contamination in Angola is a result of a long period of armed conflict which began in 1961 and ended with the signing of the peace agreement in 2002.

The characterization of the contamination in Angola is rare in the world taking into account several aspects such as:

- The long period of war in its various forms conventional, unconventional, where landmines were planted indiscriminately.
- The considerable number of actors including mercenaries from different countries.
- More than 80 types of antipersonnel landmines, produced in more than 30 countries.
- The vastitud of the country with 1/4 of its population, around 4 Millions peoples, having been internally displaced.
- The inexistence of registries and maps or any other documents indicating the location of minefields.

In 1996/1997 the initial survey was conducted by the two main international operators at the time, NPA and Halo Trust in order to evaluate the level of contamination in Angola, as result it was estimated that 35% of the national territory was affected by landmines.

At that time, Joining in the international effort for a Free World of Landmines, The Angolan Government signed the Landmine Ban Convention in December 4, 1997 and ratified in July 5, 2002.

Over the years the Angolan National Program for Demining has mainly

two different periods, first from 1995 to 2002. Activities during this initial period were predominantly for emergency humanitarian aid. The main operators at that time were, NPA, Halo Trust and MAG. From 2002 onward demining activities were more focused in support of the development and national reconstruction of the country, Coordinated by the Angolan National Mine Action Authority "CNIDAH" with a more active involvement of public operators namely "INAD, Armed Forces Brigades, Brigades GNR and Border Police" working under the umbrella of the Executive Commission "CE".

During the period of nearly 3 years, from 2004 to 2007, Angola carried out the LIS which has given us a "base line" and enable CNIDAH to present for approval at the Council of Ministers The National Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

The LIS has found that 3318 areas are possibly contaminated corresponding to approximately 1.2 billion square meters.

Although with the LIS result, the research has continued with non technical survey including areas not previously accessible and intensive demining activities, regularly updating the national data base.

At the moment we have identified a total of "Three Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty" 3320 contaminated areas corresponding nearly 1.3 billion square meters", From that we have cleaned "One Thousand Two Hundred and Eighteen" 1218 areas corresponding "Seven Hundred Forty Million Sixty Four Thousand and Two Hundred Seventy Two" square meters 740.064.272 m<sup>2</sup>, the remaining suspected areas total "Two Thousand and Seventy One" 2071 areas around "Five Hundred Eighty One Million Nine Hundred Forty One Thousand and Seventeen square meters" 581.941.017 m<sup>2</sup> and 31 Thirty One areas corresponding "Four Million Seventy Hundred Thirteen Thousand and Three Hundred Fifty Two square meters 4.713.352 m<sup>2</sup> in progress.

We have to acknowledge the big challenge ahead since the public operators who are carrying out most of the demining activities in the country for the last five years has been reporting outside of the IMSMA System, therefore Eight Hundred Seventy Five Millions and Seven Hundred and Eleven Thousand and Two Hundred Thirty Eight square

meters (875.711.238 m2) are not in our data base.

Mr. Presidente

We are aware that some work still need to be done in order to have our extension request of Article 5 ready by 31st March 2012, on this regard we are working hard and most of the work has been done already, we have setted up a Technical Group playing the key roll of interacting regularly with all mine action partners in the country for the development of Angola's extension request. We would like also to mention the extraordinary help we are getting from ISU which has provided us with one Senior Staff who are always available for us.

Thank you very much.