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Republic of Mozambique

**12th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention**

**Intervention of Mozambique on
Assistance to Landmine Victims**

Delivered by
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Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the UN
and other International organizations in Geneva

Geneva, 4th of December 2012

Mr. president,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my delegation's gratitude for the opportunity given to us to speak about the progress and challenges faced by Mozambique in the area of assistance to the victims of landmines.

In Mozambique, people with disabilities are estimated to number 473,971, which corresponds to 2% of the total estimated population of 23,700,715 inhabitants in 2012. Victims of landmines are included in this number.

Of this number, 20.7% suffered upper limb amputations, 12.9% are deaf, 9.4% are blind, 8.5% are mentally ill, 8.2% suffered lower limb amputations, and 7.3% are paraplegics.

In our country, the majority of the persons with disabilities live in the rural areas where the level of poverty is higher where public services for health, education and other services are insufficient.

To guarantee better social assistance to persons with disabilities and the promotion of their rights, the following policies, plans and legislation were approved and are being implemented:

- The Policy on Persons with Disabilities which defines and orients the activities in the area of disabilities in the country.
- The Strategy on Persons with Disabilities in the public sector, determines the actions to be developed for state institutions for the improvement and enhancement of employment for persons with disabilities.

- The regulations on accessibility establish the national standards for the construction and use of public buildings and spaces.

At the international level, Mozambique ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities in 2010 and deposited their instruments of ratification in January of this year. In 2013, Mozambique will submit its first report on implementation of the convention.

The action points on victim assistance included in the Cartagena Action Plan were achieved through the first National Action Plan on Disabilities, which was in force from 2006 to 2010.

This year, the Government of Mozambique approved the second National Action Plan on Disabilities for the period from 2012 to 2019 which will continue the actions for social assistance and the promotion of the rights of Persons with Disabilities. This Plan contains a specific section and actions for assistance to landmine victims.

The implementation of the first Action Plan allowed us to achieve some encouraging results in the areas of health, education, social assistance and the promotion of employment.

With regard to education, from 2011 to 2012, 2,502 children with special education needs were integrated into regular schools, 307 children with special education needs were enrolled in special schools and 89 children attended the only Institute for the Visually Impaired that exists in the country.

Also, we have implemented specific trainings with the objective of increasing the basic capacity of officials and professors for the use of information technology and communication in relation to persons with visual disabilities.

As a way to improve conditions to access education, the government recently built three regional centers in the North,

Centre and South of the country and has been strengthening inclusive education through the capacity building activities for teachers.

To facilitate the mobility of people with disabilities, 972 beneficiaries received suitable means of compensation, with priority given to the rural areas where the majority of the people with disabilities and mine victims live.

With regard to persons with disabilities needing services for physiotherapy and rehabilitation, 3319 persons with disabilities were hosted in the 5 Transit Centers that operate in the country.

During 2012, the Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Programme, which functions through the 10 Orthopedic Centers in the country, provided services to 25,524 patients in appointments for outpatient physiotherapy, 18,718 of these patients received treatment for the first time. 4021 Orthopedic devices were also produced and 1656 devices were repaired.

Under Social Security, 39,151 persons with disabilities received services through the programs for social assistance and material support. 3677 people with disabilities received financial and psychosocial support.

Concerning access to employment, initiatives were developed that facilitated the social inclusion of 6059 persons with disabilities in projects to generate income, which includes the employment of 2849 persons with disabilities in public institutions.

Mr. President,

In Mozambique, the assistance to landmine victims is done in coordination with civil society. The Network for Assistance to Mine Victims - RAVIM - a non-governmental organization and the Handicap International, established the Information System and Guidance on Social Action - SIOAS - which aims to work in the

identification, referral and assistance to people with disabilities, including mine victims. From 2011 to 2012, this information system has already identified and referred 637 persons with disabilities.

In addition, a study is currently being conducted about the social conditions of the landmine victims that will allow us to identify key actions to be undertaken to improve the assistance to mine victims and their social integration.

The coordination and monitoring of actions to benefit people with disabilities are ensured through the National Council on Disabilities that meets three times a year.

Mr. President,

next year, we will start the elaboration of the draft law to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities, an instrument that will ensure the rights of this segment of the population.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Mozambique to continue to implement assistance and socio-economic reintegration of people with disabilities in general and victims of landmines in particular in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan and the 2012-2019 National Action Plan on Disabilities.

Muito obrigado!

Geneva, 4 December 2012