



## **Republic of Mozambique**

### **Statement of the Republic of Mozambique on Victim Assistance** *13th Meeting of States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention*

Geneva, 4 December 2013

**Madam President,**

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to attend this event, and on behalf of the Government of Mozambique and on my own behalf, thank the supports of the sponsorship programme that enabled us to include an expert on victim assistance in our delegation.

Allow me to now provide a brief summary of the progress and challenges in Mozambique to provide assistance to mine victims.

**Madam President,**

In Mozambique, the total number of people with disabilities is estimated at 475,011 (249,752 males and 225,259 of the female gender), corresponding to 2% of the population.

Most of these people reside in rural areas where poverty levels are higher, which increases their vulnerability.

To ensure better welfare of persons with disabilities and promote their rights, several guidance tools, policies and strategies were adopted and are currently being implementing. I would like to highlight the following:

- The Policy on Persons with Disability who defines and directs the activities in the area of disability in the country.
- Regulations establishing accessibility standards for the construction and use of buildings and public spaces.
- National Action Plan for Disabilities for the period 2012-2019 that defines the objectives and priorities to achieve the promotion and protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This plan is in line with the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is well-aligned with the programme of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities.

Regarding implementation of this Plan, we would highlight some results achieved in some areas, namely:

- The provision of social assistance to persons with disabilities through monthly cash transfers
- The distribution of mobility devices as a means to facilitate the mobility of persons with disabilities;
- The provision of physical rehabilitation services in 10 Orthopaedic centers, which resulted in the increase in the number of beneficiaries that received orthopaedic devices.
- In relation to employment, initiatives that provide training to people with disabilities and integration in formal employment and income generation projects were developed.

**Madam President,**

This year we began the process of drafting the law to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, an instrument that will strengthen mechanisms that already exist for social welfare and promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

In the framework of assistance to mine victims, the National Action Plan on Disability favors the continuation of social assistance through approval of a plan of action for landmine survivors.

**Madam President,**

In Mozambique, assistance to mine victims is done in coordination with civil society. The Network for the Care of Victims of Mines - Ravim - a non-governmental organization and Handicap International extended the services of the "System Information and Guidance on Social Action" (SIOAS), aimed at the identification, referral and assistance for people with disabilities including mine

victims. This network has identified 368 persons with disabilities and referred to health services, including physical rehabilitation.

To know the real situation of mine victims in Mozambique, these two organizations, in conjunction with the government, are conducting a study on the social conditions of landmine victims in 12 districts of Inhambane and Sofala, two of the provinces most affected by mines. The results of this study will contribute to the elaboration of a plan of mine victim assistance, as provided in the Action Plan on Disabilities.

**Madam President,**

I would conclude by saying that Mozambique is committed to the implementation of assistance programmes and the socio-economic reintegration of persons with disabilities in general and victims of landmines in particular in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan and in line with the 2012-2019 National Action Plan on Disabilities.

Thank you for your attention and, muito obrigado!

**Geneva, 4 December 2013**