

Statement by Mozambique
Incoming Chair of the Committee on Victims' Assistance
17th MSP
Geneva, 27 November 2018

Thank you, Mr. President for giving us the floor!

At the outset, we wish to express how honored and humbled we are to assume the chairmanship of the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Under Belgium chairmanship, the Committee on Victim Assistance, focusing on synergies with partners, sister conventions, human rights treaty bodies and on increased attention to gender and the SDGs, did a lot in the course of 2018, for the benefit of mines' victims.

Therefore, Mozambique's chairmanship will seek to build upon those outstanding outcomes, alongside Italy, Chile and Belgium, other members of the Committee.

In particular, we will aim to increase the Committee's engagement with States Parties implementing Victim Assistance commitments, raising awareness concerning the plight of landmine victims and find ways to support them in addressing challenges. We also aim to strengthen our collaborative work, in particular among the disarmament conventions to share lessons learned and best practices. We, after all, have adopted the same principles and understanding on Victim Assistance.

We firmly believe that our strength will be in forging partnerships between different institutions along different disciplines to address our needs. Many institutions are working toward a more equitable world and we need to take advantage of our relative strengths.

As for 2019 committee's priorities, apart from continuing 2018 ones, we will pay attention to SDGs 1 and 11, on poverty and inclusive cities, respectively, for mine victims and other persons with disability, belong to population categories particularly affected by poverty. We will strive for a better assistance and promote inclusion, participation and engagement of victims of land mines on education, livelihood, health and well-being which will certainly contribute

to *leave no one behind* on these SDG. In this regard, it is important to stress that sustainable social and economic growth implies a multisector approach, where international cooperation plays a key role.

2019 is set to be *Victim's Assistance Year*. Therefore, the Committee, alongside partners, will pay particular attention to the following events:

- The **Victim Assistance Retreat** (organized by the Committee with the VA coordinators of the CCM and Prot. V, as well as the COMs on Cooperation and Assistance of the APMBC and the CCM);
- The **Meeting of National Mine Action Program Directors**, organized by UNMAS which will focus on victim assistance.
- The **Intercessional** meetings of the APMBC;
- The **Global Conference on Victim Assistance**;
- The **4th Review Conference** of the APMBC, which, we believe, will revise Maputo Action Plan, as far as victim assistance is concerned;
- The Committee intends to hold the 2nd edition of the **Victim Assistance Experts Meeting**, on the margins of Review Conference, pending the availability of funding;

With these actions, the Committee hopes to make further strides in the realization of its mandate as well as undertaking of actions as articulated in Maputo Actions Plan, with focus on action 18, but more importantly to the cause of mine victims.

We reiterate our political resolve to the attainment of the objectives of this important humanitarian Convention, with special focus on the mine victim's assistance.

We look forward to working with the Presidency of the Fourth Review Conference to ensure that we are able to provide our input into the current status, challenges and recommendations for the next five years following the Review Conference.

Mr. President, as we conclude the consideration of the item on victims' assistance, we thank, on behalf of the Committee, all delegations for their active participation and valuable contributions.

We thank you!