DECLARATION by HER EXCELLENCY Mrs. ISABEL MENDES CORREIA
BUSCARDINI,
THE MINISTER OF FORMER COMBATTANTS AND CHIEF OF THE
DELEGATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU
AT THE 8th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE OTTAWA
CONVENTION,

AMMAN (JORDAN)
18 – 22 NOVEMBER 2007

- Your Excellency Mr. President of the 8th Meeting of States Parties of the
  Ottawa Convention;

- Honorable Representatives of the Kingdom and Government of Jordan;

The delegation of Guinea-Bissau wishes to take the opportunity to express gratitude to
the Royal Family, Government and Nation of the Jordan for the excellent welcoming in
your marvelous and historical country.

- Your Excellency Member States present in this room, my Delegation wishes
to welcome new member states who joined us in a serious humanitarian
challenge, the creation of a less violent world free of human suffering caused
by anti-personal land mines.

On the other hand we wish to encourage the States who are not Members to
adhere to this unique international instrument which totally prohibits any use,
storage, production, transfer of anti-personal land mines and which demands their
full destruction.

- Honorable Representatives of different international organizations, United
  Nations System Agencies and NGOs.

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

In front of this magnificent assembly I wish to reaffirm one more time the
determination of my Government to comply with all the clauses of the mentioned
Convention which my country signed on December 3rd 1997 and ratified in May 2001.
During the last six (6) months Guinea-Bissau have worked on mines removal, above all in the capital Bissau, and in August 2006 at a simple ceremony, the city of Bissau was declared free of mine. Although, the capital and the Country are still polluted with different munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Therefore, the problem that most affects the Country at present is the removal and destruction of explosive devices, within which exist airplane bombs containing sub-munitions. Hence, to address the situation Guinea-Bissau organizes the training done by specialists in EOD and do the battle area clearance (BAC).

Excellencies,

The operations to be undertaken at this moment in our country go beyond the competencies and logistical-technical capacities of national NGOs. This was the reason to bring in the support of the North American Military Specialists (USAF) and two International NGOs working at present in the country: Land Mine Action and Cleared Ground Demining who work in partnership with the national NGOs: HUMAID and LUTCAM under the Coordination of CAAMI and with the support of UNDP.

Taking into consideration the situation, the Country is motivated to adhere to other Conventions such as CCW and its additional Protocols, as well as to the Norway Initiative on sub-munitions.( C\textsubscript{\textit{m}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{z}} \cdot \textit{\textit{m}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{z}} \cdot \textit{\textit{m}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{f}}\textsubscript{\textit{z}} )

In our opinion all the above mentioned Conventions defend the principles of the International Humanitarian Law and should merit the attention of each Civilized State.

Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The majority of the affected countries are poor countries, such as ours. Often, the will of the Government does not match with the Economic capacities, and therefore the wished results are not attained.

Therefore, we continue to request the support from stronger countries in order to continue to support the process. On the other hand, we wish to see concrete support to the wounded, their families and communities. Since the suffering of the victims and wounded in general is not less important than the undergoing demining operations, and therefore should merit more attention, especially in the phase we are currently going through.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our delegation once more thanks the hospitality of the Jordan Nation, our wide gratitude to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in partnership with the Donor Countries who made possible through the Sponsorship Program the presence here of two (2) members of my Delegation.
Taking the opportunity, I wish to thank once more the support of the United Nations in general and more particularly the UNDP local office and UNDP New York for the continuous and pertinent support provided to Guinea-Bissau and its fight against LandMines. We also wish to encourage the donor countries to continue support such countries as ours to promote and apply the Policy of the Humanitarian Mine Action, which can let Guinea-Bissau be free of mines and UXOs in some years.

Thank you for your attention.

Mrs Isabel Buscardini

Minister
GUINEA-BISSAU is located in West Africa.

- Guinean-Bissau divided in two parts:
  - Continental part and island part
- Area: 36,125 km²
- Population: 1,350,000
- Languages: Creole, Portuguese
- Capital: Bissau

**CLEARANCE**

- NGO-HUMAIH/LMIA: 48 DEMINERS
  - Landmines: 2,588 A/P
  - Landmines: 82 A/T
  - Cleared Area: 1,924.815.88 m²

- NGO-LIT/CAM/CGD: 92 DEMINERS

**Prabig**
Bissau was declared free of landmines on 16 August 2006 but the ERW contamination in Bissau and surrounding communities still constitutes a threat to the population.

Landmine Impact Survey (LIS)
Preliminary Opinion Collection
• Executed by CAASH at the end of 2006
• Process of information collection and analysis identified over 277 communities contaminated by mines and ERW
• New information from conflict areas was integrated

Republica da Guiné-Bissau

LIS Phase 2
• UNDP launched tender – 15 June 2007
• Planned Commencement Date – Oct 2007 by Land Mine Action NGO
• Planned Completion Date – March 2008
• National Strategic Plan to be finalized by June 2008

Current Work Plan
1. UXO Clearance in and around the capital Bissau: Paiol, Rossum, Prabis, Honde and Bissau’s Spot Tasks.

2- Buruntuma MineField
Minefield from the Independence War located on the border with Guinea-Conakry.

Manual Mine Clearance - Buruntuma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A/C m²</th>
<th>A/P</th>
<th>A/T</th>
<th>UXO &lt;12.7mm</th>
<th>Kg Metal remove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.076</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3,251</td>
<td>658.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above farmers and military delivered Eighteen (18) mines. They were removed while cultivating their land. There were two 05 AP-M35 (13) AP-AUPS mines. Also, 3 UXO were obtained from farmers.

Future Work Plan

3. Other Impact Areas
• LIS
• S. DOMINGOS on Casamance border
• QUINARA (Fulacunda)
• Military Stockpiles of SALW
• Others Locations in accordance with LIS findings

The Conditions We Face:

Types of vegetation

Type of soils

Mechanical Methodology - MAXX

MAXX — Mechanical Assistance for Demining

Under an evaluation phase, the machine was brought to Guinea-Bissau by the U.S. Department of Defense in 2004, within the framework of a preparatory agreement between the U.S. Government, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and UNDP.

MAXX Capacity
- Remotely controlled
- Can work safely inside mine field (anti-personnel mine threat)
- Vegetation cutter
- Exclusion
- Self-filling
- Ground preparation
Canting mine field vegetation:

Soil excavation for temporary storage of UNO:

**General Summary of Productivity**
**March 2006 – September 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation Snatch (t)</th>
<th>Excavation (m³)</th>
<th>Beat (h/m)</th>
<th>M.N. Landfill (m³)</th>
<th>Beat Oil (h/m)</th>
<th>Beat Oil</th>
<th>Total Beat (h/m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120,000/3,3</td>
<td>2,007</td>
<td>3.050</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>565.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Tasks**
- Remove IED

**Detection**
- Minimum metal content mines, deeply buried

**Other challenges**
Explosive Harvesting Program
- Difficulty obtaining explosives in Guinea-Bissau
- Military stockpiles EHP potential
- Golden West & Cleared Ground train-the-trainer in Cambodia
- Fly away kit arrives Bissau Aug 2007
- Additional donor assistance being sought for set-up & implementation

- Financial support from the International Community for MRE significantly reduced over the past two years. This has led to a reduction in the number of MRE "activists" in the country. UNICEF continues to support us with funding that we are using in the high priority area of S. Domingos, which borders Senegal.
- This year we completed all cycle of training, were more than volunteers from all affected/suspected areas was train.
CAAMI's vision is for a Guinea-Bissau Free of Landmines and ERW

Thank you for your attention
We thank all our current and past stakeholders