

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
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DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
AT THE 9th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE OTTAWA CONVENTION**

Geneva, 25th November 2008

Mr. President His Excellency Ambassador Jürg Streuli
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, I would like to congratulate you upon your election to preside over this Meeting and my government assures our support for your presidency and the activities you will carry out in this position.
- We wish to also take this opportunity to proudly congratulate Your Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein for the excellent and vigorous work. You and your team undertook, for the first time, what could be considered a complex but rather challenging process to successfully conduct the extension request, submitted by the first group of States. Certainly this experience could be considered as a landmark and will definitely serve as the foundation for the forthcoming extension process.
- Would like to start by emphasising the importance of this Convention to my Government and reiterate and honour our commitment to fulfil the obligation under article 5.
- To that extent let me stress the following milestones achieved by Mozambique in the implementation of the humanitarian mine action programme:
 - Moz initiated mines clearance efforts in 1993 when realized the landmines presence constituted an obstacle to the socio-economic rehabilitation of the country, posing huge threat to the development. With this we took the first action against landmines.
 - In 1997 Moz was one of the first countries recognising the universal efforts and signed the convention.
 - As previously announced mine clearance operations by HALO Trust in the four Northern Provinces have concluded. 888 sites/ minefields totalling 10 million square metres have been cleared in operations that

started in 1993. Government has visited a large sample of the affected communities in an evaluation exercise and concluded that all known mined areas have been cleared. It is acknowledged that a UXO threat remains and there is a degree of concern from some communities about potential isolated mines. During the evaluation communities have also reported the existence of ammunition caches which may include anti-personnel mines.

- Since the Geneva meeting last September X square metres have been cleared and x mines destroyed (Baseline UXOs???) . Concurrently, the six remaining provinces have been subjected to re-survey, which was concluded in October this year.
- Preliminary results of the survey indicates a confifthe rmed remaining mine problem of approximately 500 mined areas totalling just over 10 million square metres. In addition 69 UXO tasks, 33 roads representing almost 700km and 6 sites in need of battlefield area clearance were confirmed.
- Due to time and resource constraints the survey was not able to finalise the problem on the borders with Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries, a few extremely large suspect areas are in need of further technical survey and potentially further infrastructure tasks principally on power-lines and dams in remote areas may require further survey.
- Based on these survey results it is clear that Mozambique will not meet its obligation in the given 10 years under Article 5. Therefore we will submit an extension request to allow the completion of the remaining problem taking into consideration the availability of resources.
- A range of factors have impeded Mozambique's ability to meet the 10 year convention deadline. Compared to many countries the problem has been significant. Mozambique is a vast country where the mine contamination has been widely distributed throughout a country with developing infrastructure that has been regularly setback by seasonal flooding and natural disasters. In many ways the extent of the problem has been obscured by the Landmine Impact Survey completed in 2001, with a clearer picture of the situation only being finalised this year.
- The release of the Strategic Plan for Mine Action was postponed pending the completion of the re-survey efforts. The plan is being