

**Statement by the Delegation of Mozambique at the Standing  
Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine  
Technologies**

**Mr. Co-Chair**

**Distinguished delegates**

The landmines still represent a serious challenge to the government efforts to combat absolute poverty and for the promotion of social and economic development through implementation of development programs, particularly in rural areas. In this context, demining constitutes fundamental element to the implementation of the Government's Five Year Program 2005-2009.

During the past year, progress were made in mine clearance activities indicating that over 7.0 million square metres were cleared and approximately 5.0 million square metres were surveyed by the operators. These activities allowed the release of 83 villages benefiting 335 thousand people.

Information available indicates that 442 areas remain mined in 57 districts of the six central and southern provinces and the estimated extent of landmine contamination is approximately 48.5 million square meters. It is important to highlight that this information is based only on what is currently known.

The government in collaboration with a number of operators has engaged in confirmatory resurvey, with a view to determining the extent of remaining mine threat, as well as cost clearance plan in the remaining

six provinces in order to allow efficient allocation of resources and guarantee compliance of Ottawa objectives. This assessment is underway since March 2007 and preliminary results are expected by end of July. Preliminary findings from the assessment indicates that the number of mined areas will likely increase although the contaminated area estimate will be considerably reduced as a result of applying more extensive technical surveys.

The government is also in process of conducting an evaluation of demining activities undertaken by Halo Trust in four Northern Provinces, with a view to declaring them free from all known mined areas by mid-2007. Therefore, we expect that by July 2007 a real picture of mine situation will be known, as well as period and cost estimates.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the Government held a national seminar, on the proposed NMAP (2007-2010), with the objective of discussing strategy and future mine action with relevant government institutions, provincial governments, Demining organizations and civil society taking into account the mainstreaming of demining. The seminar participants made important recommendations and noticed that it is crucial to complete the information/data collection first in order to have more realistic situation.

Progress was also achieved in the area of Mine Victim Assistance. Apart from physical assistance and reintegration of landmine victims, a National Plan for People with Disability was approved by the Parliament in April 2006. The Plan was elaborated as response to African Disability Decade and shows the commitment of Government of Mozambique towards the people with disability, including landmine victims.

The Plan includes a Matrix highlighting the activities to be carried out by relevant government institutions and civil society. To ensure the efficient

implementation of the Plan, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs – the coordinating ministry of the Plan - is in the process of creating a National Disability Council with a role of coordinating and monitoring the effective implementation of the plan. The council will be structured in commissions according to the disability category were Landmine Victims will also be represented. A demonstration of Mozambique's commitment in assisting mine victims was also shown on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007, when Mozambique ratified the Convention on Persons with Disability.

Mine Risk Education continues to play an important role in preventing accidents and information collection tool in the areas with a significant impact of landmines. The MRE activities conducted during last year resulted in a significant decrease in number of accidents. Eighteen (18) landmine accidents were registered causing 35 victims, 19 of which died compared to 2005 where 35 accidents were recorded, of which 57 people were reported injured and 23 died.

**MR. Co-chair**

At the regional level, Mozambique in concerted efforts with Zambia and with Malawi, plans to undertake joint MRE and clearance activities along borderline so that to ensure free and safe movement of people and goods within the spirit of regional cooperation.

In conclusion Mr. Co-chair the delegation of Mozambique would like to congratulate the Government of Indonesia and Montenegro for adhering to the Ottawa Convention.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Geneva, 25 April 2007