

Mr. President,

Two years ago, when Mozambique presented the extension request, based on the available information at the time, included in its presentation the challenges, steps and plans required to solve the problem within a given span of time.

Today, my delegation is here to present the progress attained ever since and outline the remaining challenges.

All along, the mine action program remained crucial and was held as a priority issue by the government. In this context, all efforts were focused at mainstreaming the mine action program in the core Government National Plans, as cross a cutting issue.

This exercise has allowed the allocation of incremented domestic funding to mine clearance programs through State Annual Budget.

Furthermore, it allowed the consolidation of the decentralization process of Mine Action to provincial and local level and brought about the improvement of the overall coordination.

In the framework of the Cartagena Action Plan, we would like to highlight the following significant achievements:

1. In compliance with the requirement of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Government of Mozambique by revising the existing standards, took action to ensure that suspected hazardous areas will be released in a more efficient and cost effective manner. In this context, 10 chapters saw their provisions improved to accommodate issues related to land release concept, information and quality management, mine action contracts with agencies, just to mention a few.
2. In accordance with the mine clearance projection plan submitted along with the extension request, we have accomplished positive results through the application of all concepts and strategies such as district by district approach and land release.
3. To date, approximately 6 million square meters out of 12 million, were released from the database, corresponding to fifty percent of the initial figure presented in the extension request. And this land has been already returned to the respective communities.
4. On the other hand, in the course of clearance activities based on district by district strategy, new suspected areas were reported, surveyed or cleared. In addition and as

foreseen in the original plans, further survey and clearance of infrastructure sites have taken place, which includes power-line between Maputo and Komatiport, Cahora Bassa and Chicamba Dam, Limpopo Corridor and border line areas between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, as can be seen in the coming slides.

5. To summarize, the current mine situation in Mozambique, based on current finding indicates, that the remaining challenges have uncovered additional contaminated areas, which set us back again to an aggregate area of around 12 millions square meters.

Mr. President,

Although it seems as we are facing a reversal situation, it is important to note that this situation is manageable and several areas that were estimated to be addressed at a later stage of the extension period were cleared in advance, thus, offsetting the time required for the new area in accordance with current annual clearance rate of approximately 4 million square meters, in comparison with the estimated 2.5 million square meters target.

In the next slides, a detailed progress reporting of the six provinces can be seen.

In Maputo province, all 50 areas that were identified by the survey have been concluded and an additional 55 new reported areas, totalling 1.7 million square meters. At the moment only two districts, Moamba and Matutuine, are yet to be cleared. They harbour two major infrastructure, Maputo-Komatiport power-line and Salamanga railway.

So far 31 of the 165 pylons have been completed, one is currently active and 127 still require mine clearance.

In Gaza province, the Pfukwe corridor, also known as the Limpopo corridor is an important economic avenue in the southern part of Mozambique and it is currently being cleared and is expected to be completed in 2012.

Inhambane Province is still the most affected province, with high level of contamination which is estimated at more than 4 million square meters of mined area.

The Sofala Province is registering a steady progress. Although considerable number of new areas has been declared, clearance operations are in line with plans.

Mine clearance operations in Manica had initiated in 2009 and progress had been registered so far. Among the areas that were cleared, the Chicamba Dam was accomplished this year, marking the first infrastructure site to be out of the database.

In the Tete province all areas identified in the baseline assessment were cleared by commercial companies. The remaining task in this province is concentrated around the Cahora Bassa Dam. So far, operations on this site have resulted in the clearance of 1.5 out of the 11 km of mine field belt.

With respect to the four northern provinces of Cabo-Delgado, Niassa, Nampula and Zambézia, progress has been made in the two provinces of Zambezia and Nampula where 18 districts were classified as mine free and handed over to the local authorities, leaving these provinces with no known suspected mined areas.

Between September and November this year, two EOD training courses were carried out in the provinces of Zambezia and Nampula benefiting 24 government officials, comprising staff from the provincial Police and IND QA teams. It is envisaged that the other two provinces of Niassa and Cabo Delgado will be completed in the first quarter of 2011, laying foundations for a long term response to residual issues.

Mine risk education activity is considered an integral part of mine clearance operations. The objective of the MRE activities is to educate and instruct communities on the risk caused by mines and ERW and provide preventive and safety measures and to collect information on new hazard areas and mine victims.

Between 2008 and 2010, Government, humanitarian demining organizations and other NGOs have conducted MRE activities. Those activities reached around 61,281 people in 237 mine affected communities, in 5 provinces.

Despite the efforts to reduce the mine risk, during the same period, the number of accidents has increased from three to twelve, resulting in 43 victims of which 23 injured and 20 deaths.

In Response to this increase, the government of Mozambique is planning to intensify the risk reduction activities focussing on the new reported areas.

Mr. President,

Mozambique believes that international cooperation and assistance is crucial for the effective implementation of mine action activities and full compliance with obligation of the Convention. Continued efforts to secure adequate allocation of

resources as well as the efficient application constitutes a priority of the Government.

In 2009, the first year of the implementation of the extension request, over US\$ 9 million were allocated by the Government of Mozambique and International community to support both direct land release operations and coordination activities, which including planning, sharing of information, quality management and stakeholders' liaison.

Continuous resource mobilization efforts in 2010, brought together more than USD 11 million of the government contribution as well as support by the governments of Japan, USA, UK, Italy, Australia, Norway, Belgium and Flemish as well as by UNDP and other international organizations and national private sector.

In March, a partnership agreement was signed with the Government of Norway, as a long-term cooperation approach aimed at providing political, technical and financial support. The long-term approach has proved to be fruitful and innovative in the kind of cooperation needed to secure effective implementation of the Convention.

The Mozambican Mine Action Centre also benefited from specific technical support by the GICHD, through reinforcement of the database system (IMSMA), revision of national standards and mechanical demining technologies training.

A visit to the Cambodia mine action centre was carried out with the objective of gaining experience in integrated mechanical demining technology.

In this context of sharing and changing of information between national programmes, Mozambique delegation participated in the International summit on Mine action in Angola. Additionally, various mission delegations from Angola have visited Mozambique operations to discuss issues on the application of the district-by-district and land release approach, and the role of the national authority.

Mr. President

Allow me to, on behalf of my Government take this opportunity and express our sincere gratitude to all governments and international organisations that through their generous support demonstrated confidence in Mozambique's commitment and made possible the success so far attained.

We plead those governments to continue with the support and we urge others to join.

Before I conclude, I would like express our congratulations to Nicaragua for its announcement that it has complied with the obligations under the Convention. Finally, let me reiterate my Government commitment to do its utmost with a view to

accomplish the clearance of all mined areas and comply with obligation within the deadline.

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