



REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA  
COMISSÃO NACIONAL INTERSECTORIAL DE DESMINAGEM E  
ASSISTENCIA HUMANITÁRIA

## STATEMENT

OF HIS EXCELLENCE GENERAL  
SANTANA ANDRÉ PITRA "PETROFF"  
PRESIDENT OF CNIDAH AT THE  
FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES  
PARTIES TO  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION  
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL  
MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION

28 NOVEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER 2016  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

MR. PRESIDENT,  
EXCELLENCIES AND HONOURABLE AMBASSADORS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORP,  
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER  
STATES AND SIGNATORIES TO THE CONVENTION,  
DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS TO THE 15th  
MSP,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Let me first of all, on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Angola and on my own, congratulate the People and Government of Chile for holding this important conference which gathers hundreds of Mine Action actors together in this beautiful city of Santiago.

**Mr. President,**

Chile is one of the most active countries in the idea and humanitarian cause for banning anti-personnel mines in the world.

The Republic of Angola as a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, has sought to fulfill its commitments satisfactorily.

It should be noted that even before becoming a State Party in 2003, Angola, who signed the Convention in December 1997, was already attending the main events of the Convention as an observer.

For Angola, demining the country and declaring it free of known mined areas is one of the top priorities in its Government program.

Thus, by recognizing the pressing need of the movement of people and goods throughout the national territory, the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance "CNIDAH" was established in 2001 in order to coordinate and plan all mine action activities nationwide.

In 2005, the Executive Demining Commission was established as a public operating body that congregates within it specialized demining brigades of 4 Public Operators, namely: the National Demining Institute "INAD", the Engineering Unit of the Armed Forces, the Security House brigades of the Presidency and the Border Guard Police which are exclusively financed by the State Budget.

The activity of the Executive Demining Commission is mainly aimed at demining efforts for the national reconstruction, whose results are clearly visible throughout the country and is summarized in the recovery of road networks in the country's 18 provinces, recovery of all railways, repair and construction of bridges and other public infrastructures such as municipal administrations, schools, hospitals, churches, etc. mostly destroyed and abandoned during the armed conflict.

These achievements clearly demonstrate the serious commitment of the Angolan Government that have been essential not only for the movement of people and goods in their daily lives, but also has served for other national or international operators to focus primarily on humanitarian demining and to reach previously remote and inaccessible areas, which has allowed us to have more realistic picture of the landmine contamination in the country.

### **Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen**

On March 30, 2012, Angola submitted its first Article 5 extension request, which was predictable given the endogenous and exogenous factors that were well detailed in the document, namely: the huge size of the national territory, the long period of civil war in which a large number of actors were involved who placed landmines indiscriminately, climatic factors, topography and accessibility in many areas.

In that request Angola asked for 5 years to be able to determine more precisely the level of contamination throughout the country through the implementation of projects some of which were already under way, namely; The demining process, updating the database and non-technical survey.

After 4 of the 5 years requested, we can make a positive balance, regarding the results already achieved:

It is known today that 13 of the 18 provinces of the country were surveyed or re-surveyed, out of the 5 remaining 2 are in progress and 3 are still awaiting for funding.

At this point in time, 1432 mined areas have been identified and precisely located, the provinces with the least identified areas are those of Luanda with 3 areas estimated 800,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Namibe with 10 areas estimated 3 000 000 m<sup>2</sup> and Cabinda with 36 areas around 210 000 000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Also as result of the work that has been developed, the provinces of Huambo and Malange once heavily contaminated, could be declared mine-free by 2018.

Full Details on this findings will be available in February, during the 20<sup>th</sup> Directors Meeting.

### **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen**

Today we have a more realistic knowledge of the landmine contamination in Angola, namely; The number of mined areas, their size and location.

However, we are aware that the clearing of the 1432 known areas in the national territory should be completed by 2025, according to the 2014 Maputo Declaration.

The world in general and Angola in particular is experiencing difficult economic and financial times. In Angola, the situation was mainly caused due to the fall in the price of oil in the international market, its main export product.

In view of this reality and aware of the remaining challenges, we reiterate our deep commitment to compliance with Article 5 of the convention, but we must clearly recognize the need for continued support from the national and international community, to enable the country comply satisfactory and in a timely manner with the clearing of these identified areas.

### **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen**

In view of the above, we would like to take this opportunity to announce that, the Republic of Angola will submit its second Article 5 extension request by end of March 2017, which for this purpose, CNIDAH and its partners have been engaged in drafting of this document.

With this in mind, we would like to thank the ISU and particularly its Director Juan Carlos Ruan, for the frequent support that has been provided to us.

Thank You so much.