



Republic of Mozambique

STATEMENT BY MOZAMBIQUE

**19TH STATES PARTIES MEETING TO
THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

VIRTUAL, 15-19 NOVEMBER 2021

Item 10 - a) Assisting the Victims

**Mr. President,
Excellences;
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Since this is the first time we are taking the floor in this meeting, Mozambique wishes to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your election to preside over the 19th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Our congratulations are extended to your dedicated team, Mr. President, as well as to the Implementation Support Unity, for their commendable work in the preparation of this landmark Conference.

We thank you for the regularity of the meetings, in particular, at this difficult time when the rates of the COVID-19 pandemic have devastated many countries, creating a direct impact on people with disabilities.

We also commend all the effort made by the organizers of this event for the readiness to change the format of the meeting, from the hybrid to the fully virtual format, due to the current COVID-19 situation in the Netherlands. We hope the country will swiftly overcome this situation.

Mr. President

In Mozambique, it is estimated that there are around 10,000 survivors of mines and other remnants of war, with different types of impairments.

With the end of demining process in 2015, the country has increased efforts to provide assistance to mine survivors, either through actions undertaken by the Government, Civil Society and cooperation partners for the compliance of the programs and plans aimed at improving the quality of life and promoting participation in all areas of activities without any kind of discrimination.

To materialize the government's objectives and in particular guarantee assistance to mine victims, Mozambique approved a set of normative instruments such as the National Strategy for Basic Social Security 2016-2024, that introduce specific programs for the prevention of social risks and the care for mine survivors and person with disabilities and the Action Plan for Assistance to Mine Victims (PAAV) and Explosive Remnants of War (ERG) 2015-2019 that it aimed, among

other aspects, to respond to the need for greater visibility of actions to assist mine victims.

All the instruments approved are inclusive and based on the principle of non-discrimination, seeking to expand and improve the provision of services in order to guarantee access to different services with a minimum of barriers for people. In light of the principle of inclusion of leaving no one behind prescribed in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, Mozambique is committed to redouble efforts to improve programs and strategies for the materialization of actions aimed at giving greater dignity to life for victims of mines and other persons with disabilities in line with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mine victims and people with disabilities in general benefit from all the Basic Social Protection Programs implemented in the country as an integral part of the Mozambican society. These programs are characterized by cash and in-kind transfers to the mine victims and people with disabilities, where in recent times were increased in response to the COVID-19 and humanitarian emergencies, with the aim of boosting income and minimizing the impacts that these phenomena have caused on people's lives.

In the area of socio-economic integration, activities were developed to include mine victims and people with disabilities in professional courses with appropriate pedagogical, technical and human conditions, as well as facilitating access to employment for victims of mines and people with disability in general. Also, 1,591 victims of mines and people with disabilities were integrated into socio-economic activities, which allowed them to develop self-employment, thus ensuring their self-sufficiency.

In the health area, public education activities were carried out on the prevention of pathologies and in-hospital care, acquisition of equipment and consumables for the manufacture of devices and auxiliary mobility aids; in addition, 33,536 means of compensation were distributed, mainly consisting of prostheses, wheelchairs and orthopedic boots. Guaranteed access to community-based rehabilitation services, medical care and medication. Also in this area, it is important to highlight psychosocial support provided to landmine victims and people with disabilities in general.

In the perspective of improving the data collection system, 2017 Census, the

country started with the gradual implementation of the use of the six questions of the Washington Group, which allowed to obtain some results that can improve the data collection system in the area of disability.

Mr. President,

Despite these achievements, Mozambique still faces challenges in implementing victim assistance activities, such as the availability of financial resources and effective coordination of activities between sectors to provide up-to-date information on the activities that each one carries out.

Regarding the data collection on mine victims and other remaining devices of war and persons with disabilities, it should be noted that the country still faces challenges in the collection and treatment and discrimination of data by type of disability, with specificity to mine victims.

Therefore, Mozambique expects to continue cooperation in order to obtain resources that enable the creation of a database disaggregated by sex, age and type of disability that can facilitate interventions, and carry out actions that favor the creation of job opportunities.

Thank you very much for your attention