



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA



**STATEMENT BY THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION TO THE 19 MSP FOR ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN OTTAWA CONVENTION,
THE HAGUE, 15th TO 19th NOVEMBER, 2021**

Your Excellency, Mr President;

Distinguished delegates,

Excellencies,

I have the honour to present this Declaration to the 19th Session of the Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola.

First and foremost, we would like to welcome His Excellency Robbert Jan Gabriëlse Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament, President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties and express our confidence in the leadership of the work of this Session and its successful conclusion.

The Angolan Government and its partners have made efforts to mobilize human, financial and material resources to comply with article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, as reiterated during the 4th Conference held in Oslo, in 2019.

Angola recognizes the support of governmental and non-governmental partners, as well as the particular contribution of its donor partners.

Under the commitments by the Government of Angola, to participate in the general costs to free the country from known mined fields, 60 million dollars have been allocated, of which 20 million have already been delivered to Halo Trust, for demine of 53 areas in the cross-border project of Okavango Zambeze (KAZA), in Cuando Cubango Province.

On the other hand, on the part of the donors, we welcome the efforts of Japan, which granted US\$2 million, basing on the Exchange of Notes between the two States, held on 14 January 2021, to modernise the demining machines.

Recently, the National Demining Institute (INAD) concluded a partnership agreement with the NGO APOPO, aiming to carry out joint operations in the province of Cuanza Sul.

With regard to mine risk education, various programs and tools have been used to raise awareness among citizens in suburban and rural areas, through television and radio programmes, Community Theatre, debates, comics and production and distribution of audio visual materials in national languages and local dialects. Thus, in this regard, **122,710 (One Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Ten)** people were sensitized during the period 2020-2021, out of which 62,711 (**Sixty Two Thousand**

Seven Hundred and Eleven) children, 30,053 (**Thirty Thousand and Fifty Three**) men and 29,676 (**Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Six**) women.

Despite the great effort on demining and communities sensitization, mine accidents continue to occur. Thus, from 2020 to 2021, a total of 59 (Fifty Nine) mine accidents were registered, resulting in 129 (Hundred and Twenty Nine) victims, of which 35 (Thirty Five) deaths and 94 (Ninety Four) injured, most of them children.

Distinguished delegates,

Angola will have objective conditions to comply with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, if successful mobilisation of resources from national and international partners, is achieved through bilateral and multilateral actions to cover the financial need, to complete the process, estimated at US\$231 million.

In these terms, we reinforce the call to Donors and Friends of Angola to support by contributing and cooperating on capacity building, ongoing staff training and use of innovative operational approach;

To improve cooperation and coordination mechanisms, national and international operators should adopt projects according to priorities established by the Ministerial Departments and Provincial Governments, within the framework of the Nacional Operational Demining Plan.

Mr. President,

Angola will continue to recognize the work that has been developed by several national and international partners in Mine Action.

LET US JOIN EFFORTS TO FREE ANGOLA FROM LANDMINES

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!...