



Republic of Angola

**STATEMENT DELIVERED
AT THE 20TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINES**

Geneva, November 2022

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Taking the floor for the first time in this forum, on behalf of the Government of Angola, allow me to congratulate the Presidency of the 20th Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty and all participants for the success achieved so far in the fight against this plague.

Angola recognizes the efforts made by the international community, and attributes particular significance to the fulfillment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, ensured by the continuous efforts to eradicate mines by December 2025, in accordance with the Oslo Plan of Action of 2019.

In order to improve and strengthen the National Mine Action institutions, the National Mine Action Agency (ANAM) was established and is responsible for regulating, supervising and controlling mine action activities undertaken by public and private institutions as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The National Demining Centre has also been established, which, in terms of operations, is actively contributing to the fulfilment of the obligations stipulated in Article 5 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

The Mine Action Program has registered significant achievements in several areas, notably improving land release practices, improving the information management system and quality management methods, improving explosive ordnance risk education and victim assistance practices, establishing a platform for dialogue with all stakeholders in the country and abroad, strengthening gender and diversity practices, as well as environmental preservation.

Since the end of 2021, new contaminated areas that were not covered in previous surveys due to lack of access have been recorded in the national database. However, with the cancellation and correction of areas through surveys, both technical or not, clearance and reconciliation of data with mine action operators resulted in the reduction of mined areas in the national database.

When Angola requested the extension, in 2017, 1,465 mined areas with approximately a total of 221,409,679m² (square meters) were registered in the national database. By the end of September this year, 1,089 mined areas were registered, making a total remaining contaminated area of approximately 71,818,787m². From January 2018 to September 2022, a total of 26,758,951m² of land was released and a total of 282.65km of land was cleared. In the referenced period, 17,745 explosive ordnances, including 9,489 antipersonnel mines, 1,559 anti-tank mines and 6,697 unexploded and abandoned explosive ordnance were also removed and destroyed.

These results demonstrate Angola's commitment to meet its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, and to ensure that people can access and use land safely. However, a bigger challenge still remains, as on average, Angola will need to release 24,000,000m² of land annually to meet the target of completing demining by 2025, as promised in the report.

Despite all the efforts made over nearly three decades of humanitarian demining, mines and unexploded ordnance continue to impact on rural communities. Accidents continue to occur and this is a concern for the Government. This year alone, by the end of September, 27 accidents had been reported resulting in 36 casualties and 52 injured. The accidents took place in 10 provinces, namely Bengo, Benguela, Bié, Cunene, Cuando Cubango, Huambo, Huila, Luanda, Malange and Moxico.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education was integrated into land release operations to strengthen the link between mine action operators and communities and reinforce awareness of the risk and the need for safe behavior.

Mr. President,

As part of the assistance to Mine Victims, a necessity assessment and registration of 9,296 mine survivors in 9 provinces was carried out. Mechanisms for Assisting Victims were also put in place such as coordination meetings, working groups, the establishment of orthopedic centers with the production and application of prostheses, as well as the provision of information and referral of victims to the appropriate services.

Angola acknowledges and thanks the valuable financial contributions of international donors at the governmental and private level, that have been vital to the progress of land release. Our recognition goes, particularly, to the Governments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, Norway, Belgium and Sweden that have tirelessly supported Angola in this noble cause. We would like to give particular relevance to the role that Norwegian People's Aid has played in capacity building, especially in information and quality management.

Despite the progress achieved so far and the mentioned support, Angola needs more than **US\$ 238,959,264.32** to complete clearing of mines in the whole country.

It is worth noting that the Government of Angola, in addition to funding the National Mine Action Agency and the National Demining Centre, is also funding the clearance of 153 minefields in the Okavango Delta area of Cuando Cubango province, by allocating US\$60 million in grants to **Halo Trust since from 2020**. This is also part of Angola's effort to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity, liaising mine action activities to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and create conditions to develop, particularly, Ecotourism.

Clearance of known mined areas in the provinces of Malange and Huambo has been completed, and the same situation is expected in four other provinces namely Namibe, Uige, Zaire and Kwanza Norte by the end of 2023. The process of establishing a residual risk management capacity began with the creation of the National Demining Centre which, in cooperation with other Defense and Security entities, will be responsible for providing a rapid

response to future challenges associated with the discovery of sporadic explosive ordnances and currently unknown contaminated areas. To guide and regulate this activity, the drafting **of the national residual risk management strategy and standard is being completed.**

Mr. President

Excellencies,

We would like to reiterate Angola's commitment to comply with its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention and implement the best practices in line with the Oslo Plan of Action, in an effort to complete mine clearance in Angola by 2025.

Thank you!



**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
NATIONAL MINE ACTION AGENCY - ANAM**



**EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE VICTIM ASSISTANCE
ANGOLA**

**20th MEETING OF STATE PARTIES - GENEVA
21 to 25 NOVEMBER**

INTRODUCTION

The assistance to the victims of explosive ordnance in the Mine Action Programme in Angola is managed by ANAM, through its Mine Victim Assistance Department.

ANAM's main partners in this programme are the following Ministerial Departments: **Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Welfare, Family and Women's Promotion, Ministry of Public Administration, Labour and Social Security and the Ministry of National Defence and Homeland Veterans.**

Other partners include **Non-Governmental Organisations and Churches.**

The Assistance to Victims of Explosive Ordnance is conducted throughout the national territory in accordance with policies and plans on health, human rights, education, disability, labour, poverty reduction and social protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE VICTIMS (1)

- § Expansion of continuous medical assistance services and recovery of victims of the Dr. Agostinho Neto and Princess Diana Physical Rehabilitation Centres, as well as other similar units;
- § Increased services of economic inclusion, entrepreneurship and improvement of social security policies;
- § Construction and extension of health facilities equipped with physiotherapy and psychological rehabilitation services;

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE VICTIMS(2)

- § Completion of the Victim Assistance National Standard;
- § Awareness-raising campaigns in the different media outlets to support victims of explosive ordnance;
- § Sponsorship for the establishment of the Angolan Women Mine Victims Network;
- § Increased access to public services and social participation.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF VICTIMS OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE (3)



Commitment by the President of the Republic



Workshop for the drafting of the National Standard for Victim Assistance



Socio-economic inclusion of women victims of explosive ordnance



Partner Organisation representative at the Operational Coordination meeting



Social Inclusion - National team crowned vice-champions of the 2022 Paralympic World Cup



Prosthesis Production at the Viana Rehabilitation Centre

KEY CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS TO ASSISTING VICTIMS OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CHALLENGES

- § Institutional capacity building of ANAM and partners in general;
- § Understanding the current situation of explosive ordnance victims;
- § Preparation of a Victim Assistance National Plan and its effective implementation;
- § Engagement of all partners in a sustained assistance;
- § Mobilisation of financial resources;

CONSTRAINTS

- § Limited financial and working capacity.

PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- § Institutional capacity building of the explosive ordnance victim assistance pillar;
- § Availability of funds for economic inclusion;
- § Information sharing on a regular basis among partners with data disaggregated by sex, age and disability;
- § Data collection of all victims in all provinces;
- § Revitalisation of physical and psychological rehabilitation activities.
- § Use of the IMSMA tool by operators;
- § Social and psychological support.

Obrigado

Thank you!