

**STATEMENT BY MRS. EUFEMIA AMELA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILD AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF MOZAMBIQUE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20
MSP OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

Item 10 -a) Assisting the victims

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen**

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Mozambique, I would like to express our appreciation for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization that characterizes this important event.

As this is the first time I have taken the floor, let me congratulate the President of the 20 MSP and the members of the Secretariat of the Convention for the good manner in which they are conducting this meeting.

The 20th Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the Convention on the Prohibition and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction is of particular importance to us, as it is an opportunity to exchange views on the implementation of the Convention, in particular an update on the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas and assistance to victims, as we move rapidly towards 2025 for a world free of mines.

As 2025 approaches we are still concerned about the use of artisanal artifacts by armed groups that are harming populations around the

world in an unfortunately context of armed conflicts that have left victims in countries.

In the materialization of this convention, the Mozambican government highlights the importance of the Mine Action Program and the implementation of the National Mine Action Plan that was in force from 2008-2014 in compliance with the obligations of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction referring to demining, a plan that led Mozambique to become one of the first five most affected countries to comply with demining.

Mr. President,

In Mozambique, despite having declared free of anti-personnel mines in 2015, lately there have been reports of sporadic cases of explosive devices as a legacy of the periods of war, and we can describe some cases that have occurred recently, such as the one that occurred in 2017 where four people belonging to the same family with ages ranging from 11 to 25 years old died in Zambezia province due to the explosion of an anti-personnel mine, in 2018 the explosion of an antipersonnel mine that caused the death of 3 children aged between 7 and 11 years and injury to 2 others aged between 8 and 12 years respectively in Cabo Delgado province, and very recently an antipersonnel mine that seriously injured two men aged 22 and 37 years who were working in their agricultural fields, innocently using the explosive to repair a hoe in Manica province.

This situation shows the challenges that are still being faced in the country to eliminate the antipersonnel mines that have been planted, to intensify actions to sensitize communities about the danger of mines, to redouble efforts to eliminate emerging residual cases and to pay more attention to assisting the victims.

Mr. President,

In the area of victim assistance, the government has approved different instruments that aim to provide assistance to all people, based on the principle of non-discrimination and the expansion, provision, and improvement of basic services and the promotion of a favorable environment where everyone enjoys the same rights.

Among these instruments, it is worth mentioning the Action Plan for Assistance to Mine Victims and Other Remnants of War 2016-2019, designed as a corollary to the need to visualize assistance actions for mine victims and in response to the Maputo Plan of Action, which urges member states to prioritize assistance to mine victims through the implementation of multisectoral actions, and also the National Plan for the Area of Disability 2012-2019.

These two plans, the 2016-2019 Action Plan for Assistance to Mine Victims and Other Remnants of War and the 2012-2019 National Disability Area Plan, have expired and an evaluation has been carried out which concluded that it was not feasible to have two plans for the same approach, although the specific plan for assistance to mine victims was a planning tool where the actions therein were satisfactorily fulfilled.

Among the normative instruments and programs implemented in the country, we can highlight the National Strategy for Basic Social Security 2016-2024, which introduces specific programs, such as the Basic Social Allowance Program, aimed at preventing social risks, which also benefits people with disabilities, including mine victims; the physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support programs available through the Orthopedic Centers and Physiotherapy services for the care of people

with disabilities, and the Community Based Rehabilitation program with an integrated approach to various services (education, health, social assistance and others) aimed at improving the basic needs of people with disabilities and mine victims in particular.

The government has prioritized the creation of conditions for the care of mine victims in emergency situations through inclusive plans, where in accommodation centers the records made for the care of victims of both natural disasters and armed conflict are discriminated by disability as one of the ways to enable better accommodation and care, although challenges still persist about discrimination based on the type of disability.

People with disabilities, including mine victims, are integrated into socio-economic projects and technical vocational training that create opportunities for people with disabilities to develop self-employment and income generation projects.

By complying with the plans and programs, most public and private institutions have gained awareness of the inclusion of mine victims and people with disabilities, so that the level of employment of people with disabilities and mine victims has been noticeable in the private sector as well.

Mr. President

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that the country has been striving for the fulfillment of the Oslo Action Plan, however it is important to highlight the challenges that still exist regarding the removal of different types of barriers such as the attitudes that manifest themselves in certain situations coupled with the weak understanding of the inclusive approach to disability and the rigid rules for access to microfinance.

Another challenge that still remains is related to the establishment of a database that includes specific information on people killed, mine victims by sex and their needs and the availability of sufficient resources to meet the needs of the victims.

To conclude, Mr. President, we reiterate that as a Government, Mozambique will continue to implement the Convention for the good of all, while congratulating the State Parties for their commitment to have a mine free world by 2025.

Thank you very much for your attention!