



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

STATEMENT BY MOZAMBIQUE TO THE XXI MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF ANTIPERSONNEL MINES

Item 10: Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

**a) Assisting the victim: conclusions and recommendations related to the
mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance**

21st November 2023

Geneva, 20-24 November 2023

Mr. President

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Mozambique, I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Convention for the invitation extended to our country to participate in this twenty-first meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-personnel mine ban Convention.

We salute the President, the members of the bureau and the secretariat for their efforts in organizing this event, which aims to assess progress in the implementation of the Convention in alignment with the Oslo Plan of Action.

We are confident that under your leadership the work of this session will proceed to a successful conclusion. In this context, we assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

The twenty-first meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines is of particular importance as it provides a space to present, share experiences and update on the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, in particular on the destruction of anti-personnel mines, as well as to share ongoing

actions in the field of victim assistance. As we move into the year two thousand and twenty-five, stipulated for the end of mines in the world.

The country for some years was torn apart by successive wars, which left many explosive devices and remnants of war, causing deaths and leaving victims with some kind of disability. And because of this situation, efforts were undertaken that culminated in the destruction of mines and the declaration of the country free of mines.

This was an important achievement for our country because it allowed everyone to move freely and carry out development activities in cleared areas. However, despite this progress, there are still isolated cases of explosive devices as a result of terrorist actions that attempt to destabilise our country.

The Mozambican Defence and Security Forces, in their routine activities, work to maintain an environment of peace, by collecting unexploded ordinance that may occasionally have been scattered in areas where fighting has taken place which, when found, are destroyed at the same time.

In this perspective, we can also highlight the implementation of Civic Education campaigns on the danger of mines and remnants of war. These actions cover the entire country with the aim of minimizing dangerous accidents with the participation of various government and civil society actors.

On the other hand, the Mozambican Defense and Security Forces, in cooperation with other international organizations, are conducting courses

on awareness and collection of unexploded objects in the field. These courses are being taught by American instructors.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

In the area of health, the provision of health services is guaranteed to all citizens, as health is a right for all. In this regard, mine victims and persons with disabilities, in addition to benefiting from the physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support available in hospitals, they also benefit from all services as citizens on an equal footing, as well as public education programs that sensitize people to access health facilities.

In the area of social assistance, the National Strategy for Basic Social Security ensures the implementation of Basic Social Protection programs for people in situations of poverty and vulnerability, with emphasis on the Basic Social Subsidy Program, which advocates monetary transfers, and the Productive Social Action Program for individuals with the capacity to carrying out remunerated activities.

The programs and projects implemented are inclusive, guaranteeing autonomy and independence for mine victims and people with disabilities, with the fundamental objective of leaving no one behind.

Reducing socioeconomic inequalities has become a priority with inclusive discussions and approaches in Mozambican public policies. Social assistance is provided to mine victims and persons with disabilities on an equal basis, according to the established criteria.

In the area of technical-vocational training, mine victims and people with disabilities attend courses in various areas. For example, in 2021, were trained 154 (one hundred and fifty-four) people with disabilities and mine victims, 18 (eighteen) managed to enter formal employment and 26 (twenty-six) self-employed and the rest develop informal businesses.

Self-employment and informal business are the main projects that have been developed on a daily basis by mine victims and people with disabilities, as a result, on the one hand, of the knowledge acquired throughout life and, on the other hand, of having attended some courses in technical and vocational training centres.

Also in 2021, with the support of partners, the Project for the Economic Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in Employment was developed, whose main objective was to carry out inclusive activities in vocational training centers in order to provide opportunities for access to employment for mine victims and persons with disabilities using accessible technologies.

The project resulted in the training of 1,591 (one thousand five hundred and ninety-one), of which it was possible to have an employability rate of 44.9% (forty-four percent), where some of them carried out paid internships and self-employment.

Technical and vocational training, as well as work, have allowed mine victims and people with disabilities to learn and develop, as well as to understand that it is through work that they can demonstrate their potential, skills and build a more independent and autonomous life.

Integration into the labour market, although still limited, shows promise with the admission of mine victims and people with disabilities by private employers who value their potential and skills, showing that it is possible to have results and generate profits with these people.

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Distinguished Delegates,**

The implementation of the normative instruments approved by the government has been important for the fulfilment of what is prescribed in the convention, as the Mozambican legislation presents itself with an inclusive approach, positively impacting the lives of mine victims and people with disabilities.

Mine victims and persons with disabilities participate in the country's development processes with opportunities for professional and personal growth.

Mozambique is in the right path to approving a specific law to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, which could boost and contribute to reversing the prevalence of discrimination and exclusion.

The inclusion of mine victims and people with disabilities allows them to have a new attitude in social and professional relationships, and this happens through living with difference and the possibility of overcoming.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Despite the efforts that the government is making, it is important to highlight some challenges, such as, the effective integration of mine victims and people with disabilities into the labour market, associated with various aspects, such as their low professional qualifications, the inadequacy of the profiling for the position, and some barriers that still exist on the part of some employers in creating conditions of architectural accessibility, communication and information.

Also, the difficulty of accessing finance for mine victims becomes a challenge to consider, taking into consideration that most of them are elderly and with few possibilities to continue their studies and access to formal employment.

Thank you very much for your attention