



REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA

**NATIONAL MINE ACTION AGENCY
ANAM**

**21st MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE
ANTIPERSONNEL MINE BAN
CONVENTION**

GENEVA, 20 – 24 NOVEMBER 2023

MR. PRESIDENT

TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DONOR COUNTRIES;

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE STATES PARTIES;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY ON THE STEPS ANGOLA HAS TAKEN FOLLOWING ITS REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION TO 2025 AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO ARTICLE 5.

ANGOLA REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO MEETING ITS 2025 EXTENSION DEADLINE AND IN THIS CONTEXT CONTINUES TO IMPLEMENT LAND RELEASE ACTIVITIES IN ALL PROVINCES, CONTRIBUTING TO A REDUCTION IN REMAINING CONTAMINATION.

THE 2020-2025 MINE ACTION STRATEGY IS LINKED TO A WORK PLAN THAT REFLECTS THE REMAINING CONTAMINATION, WHICH HAS BEEN UPDATED, INCLUDING A LIST OF ALL AREAS CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED OF CONTAINING EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE, ANNUAL DEMINING PROJECTIONS, REVISED FUNDING PROJECTIONS AND A SYSTEM FOR PRIORITISING AND ASSIGNING TASKS IN COLLABORATION WITH OPERATORS.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, ALTHOUGH THE WORK PLAN IS BASED ON THE CURRENT REMAINING CHALLENGE IN THE COUNTRY, IT ALSO PROVIDES AN INSIGHT INTO PROGRESS ON SOME OF THE CONCRETE MEASURES THAT ANGOLA HAS UNDERTAKEN IN LINE WITH THE COMMITTEE'S COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

SINCE THE START OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXTENSION, ALTHOUGH ANGOLA HAS MADE COMMENDABLE PROGRESS IN RELATION TO THE NOVEMBER 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. NEVERTHELESS, THE COUNTRY REMAINS

COMMITTED TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF MINE CONTAMINATION IN ANGOLA FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2023 ACCOUNTED FOR A TOTAL OF 69,795,727 m² THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 TO THE APMBC, ANGOLA IS TAKING SAFE STEPS TO ERADICATE THE LANDMINE PROBLEM WITHIN ITS AREA OF JURISDICTION, IN A MANNER THAT GUARANTEES SAFETY FOR THE POPULATION AND PROMOTES SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

DESPITE THE COMPLEXITY OF MINEFIELDS AND THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THAT ALL MINED AREAS REGISTERED IN THE NATIONAL DATABASE ARE CLEARED.

HOWEVER, REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE LANDMINE CLEARANCE IN THE COUNTRY BY 2025. A REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION TO FULFIL ARTICLE 5 OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED.

HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT AFTER 2025 DEMINING IN MOST PROVINCES WILL BE COMPLETED. WITH THE CURRENT LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION OF APPROXIMATELY 70,000,000 m² AND AN AVERAGE ANNUAL PRODUCTIVITY OF 10,000,000 m², DEMINING IN ANGOLA IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 7 YEARS. AN INCREASE IN FUNDING WOULD HELP US ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IN LESS TIME.

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS, AND WILL BE, THE CLEARANCE OF THE MOST CONTAMINATED PROVINCES LOCATED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, MAINLY IN THE NORTH-EAST, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST OF THE COUNTRY, AND ESPECIALLY THE PROVINCES OF BIÉ, MOXICO AND CUANDO CUBANGO, DUE TO THE NATURE AND SIZE OF THE MINEFIELDS FOUND THERE.

EXCELLENCIES

BY DECEMBER 2025 ANGOLA WILL STILL REGISTER 49,510,969 m² OF CONTAMINATED AREAS.

OUR FORECAST IS TO DECLARE SOME PROVINCES FREE OF KNOWN MINED AREAS BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025.

DESPITE ALL THE EFFORT, ACCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR IN SEVERAL PROVINCES.

DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2023, 23 ACCIDENTS WERE RECORDED, RESULTING IN 22 DEATHS AND 43 INJURIES, TOTALLING 65 VICTIMS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WE HAVE RECORDED A SMALL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LANDMINES AND AN INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AT PRESENT, EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION IS ONLY CARRIED OUT BY DEMINING OPERATORS, NAMELY THE NATIONAL DEMINING CENTRE AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

IN THIS REGARD, WE CALL FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF MORE OPERATORS IN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION, SINCE THERE IS A NEW GENERATION OF CITIZENS WHO ARE UNAWARE OF THE HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES OF WAR AND WHO ARE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE CAUSE AND WHERE THESE ORDNANCES CAN BE FOUND.

AS FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE, A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WERE CARRIED OUT THROUGHOUT 2023, INCLUDING VISITS, COORDINATION MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS, WORK WITH THE NETWORK OF WOMEN MINE SURVIVORS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 3RD GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE.

BY 2025, WE HAVE PLANS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIONS SUCH AS: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT FOR VICTIMS AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE.

IN CONCLUSION, ANGOLA WILL REQUIRE AROUND USD 217,000,000 TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 5. THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO THE DONOR COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CLEAR ALL CONTAMINATED AREAS AND ENABLE THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY IN THE SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!