



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
AT THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
OTTAWA CONVENTION**

SIEM REAP – CAMBODIA

NOVEMBER, 2024

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- Your Excellency **Dr Ly Thuch**, Senior Minister and First Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victims Assistance Authority, as President of this Conference;
- **Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

First of all, let me thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to thank the Cambodian authorities on behalf of the Angolan government for organizing this Fifth Review Conference of the Treaty.

I would also like to thank you for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to me and the delegation accompanying me.

We congratulate His Excellency **Dr Ly Thuch** and his staff on the excellent organization of this event, which is extremely important given the crucial topics discussed over the previous five days.

Excellencies;

Over the decades, the Ottawa Convention has helped countries get rid of explosive ordnance that is a consequence of wars that have affected their

territories, and has also enabled them to provide the necessary support and aid to the victims of these ordnance.

This Conference is taking place in a country that has experienced the horrors of war and the consequences of landmines, and incidentally where the first talks took place that inspired the discussions for the drafting of the Convention.

It is also taking place at a time when the world is facing major challenges to international security and stability. I believe that the theme chosen for this Conference, '**a mine-free world**', challenges us to persist in the spirit that led to the adoption of this Convention.

Excellencies;

As a State Party, the Republic of Angola is strongly committed and has endeavoured to fulfil all its obligations under the Convention, such as **Articles 4 and 7**.

It is worth remembering that, like Cambodia, Angola was one of the most heavily mined countries in the world as a result of the long period of civil war and for this reason Angolans still consider that anti-personnel mines continue to violate basic political, civil and cultural rights, as well as the country's socio-economic development.

The burning desire of Angolans is to see their country free of mines, which is aligned with the strategic objectives of the Angolan Executive, and is included in the **National Development Plan 2023-2027**, having been reaffirmed with the statement by His Excellency, **João Manuel Gonçalves**

Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, in his last State of the Nation Address.

Excellencies;

The Republic of Angola has a territory of 1,246,700 km² and continues to face challenges in the progress of demining operations, as there are some factors that negatively influence this process.

There are currently 1,039 identified mined areas in the National Mine Action Database. It is therefore estimated that around 240 million USD will be needed to clear all the contaminated areas identified. To this end, we are counting on the continued financial and technical support of our national and international partners.

It should be noted that of the 18 provinces in our country, 8 are in the process of being declared free of known mined areas by December 2025, namely **Huambo, Benguela, Namibe, Zaire, Kwanza Norte, Uíge, Luanda and Malanje**.

Despite all the progress already achieved our country will be forced to request a third extension. As a result, the National Mine Action Agency, and its partners are already working towards developing this document.

Excellencies;

In recent years, we have witnessed an upsurge in accidents caused by other types of explosive ordnance rather than anti-personnel mines, mostly in rural and peri-urban areas, which has led us to devise new

strategies to mitigate these situations through various public institutions and with the support of non-governmental organizations, private institutions and civil society.

As far as the legal framework for assistance to victims of explosive ordnance is concerned, our country has legislation that safeguards emergency and ongoing medical assistance, rehabilitation, decent socio-economic inclusion, the definition of specific employability quotas of 4 per cent for public institutions and 2 per cent for private institutions, as well as a quota for social housing projects.

I would like to underscore that the Republic of Angola, as part of the activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of national independence, plans to hold a Mine Action Conference with the aim of analysing, evaluating and forecasting the impact of the activities of the Mine Action Sector in the various fields of our national life, especially Agriculture and Forestry, Education, Health, Energy and Water, Public Works, Geology and Mining, Transport, Tourism, as well as assessing the steps taken to comply with the ***Ottawa Convention***, as a State Party since 2002.

Excellencies;

Although the Angolan government has made financial resources available for the Mine Action Programme, with which we have been meeting the countless needs, we have, over the years, been able to count on the generous support of our international partners, some of whom are present here, so I would like, on behalf of the Angolan government, to take this sovereign opportunity to express our appreciation and ask for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Angola to fulfil all the obligations of the Ottawa Convention and the **Siem Reap Action Plan**.

United towards a mine-free world!

Thank you for your attention.