

## SALUTATION

Thank you very much Mr President, the Chairman of the Fifth Review Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to thank the entire Kingdom of Cambodia for welcoming us and warmth hospitality received so far.

Let me respect the protocol as already has established.

I am Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Ngotipeni a delegate from the Republic of Namibia.

# **NAMIBIA UPDATE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTTAWA TREATY (MINE BAN CONVENTION) 25-29 NOV 2024**

## **Introduction**

1. Namibia remains steadfast in its commitment to the principles and objectives of the Ottawa Treaty, which seeks to eliminate the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Since joining the Treaty, Namibia has prioritized mine clearance, victim assistance, and risk education as key pillars in addressing the humanitarian impact of landmines. This update highlights the nation's progress and challenges since the Fourth Review Conference while reaffirming our dedication to a mine-free future.
2. The Government of the Republic of Namibia recognises the critical role of international cooperation and partnerships in achieving the Treaty's goals. Through collaboration with regional neighbors, international organizations and dedicated stakeholders, we have made significant strides in implementing the Treaty's provisions. This report serves as a testament to Namibia's continued resolve and outlines our strategic path toward fulfilling the commitments outlined in the Oslo Action Plan.

## **AIM**

3. The aim of this report is to provide a comprehensive update on Namibia's progress, challenges and future plans in implementing the Ottawa Treaty, reaffirming the country's commitment to a mine-free world and aligning efforts with the objectives of the Oslo Action Plan.
4. The update will cover the following:
  - a. Mine Clearance Activities.
  - b. Progress Made.
  - c. Victim Assistance.
  - d. Risk Education.
  - e. Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action.
  - f. International Cooperation and Assistance.

- g. Commitment to the Oslo Action Plan.
- h. Challenges.
- i. Future Plans.
- j. Conclusion.

### MINE CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

5. Since the last Review Conference, Namibia has cleared hundreds of kilometers of distances earmarked for the road infrastructures in the Kavango East and West regions. The clearance operations were conducted in collaboration with RECON ENERGY Pty Ltd Company in the above-mentioned regions.

### PROGRESS MADE

6. Demining operations have been conducted in other regions such as Oshikoto, Oshana and currently there is a demining operation going on in the Ohangwena, and Zambezi regions which are joint operations of the NDF and Namibian Police. Namibia has destroyed a number of anti-personnel mines and other various explosives mostly in the Northern and North-Eastern Regions as these regions were the war zone during the liberation struggle. *Namibia-Zambia border clearance also under way.*

### VICTIM ASSISTANCE

7. Most <sup>mine</sup> survivors are the War Veterans <sup>of the</sup> and they have been assisted since the Fourth Review Conference. Programs implemented include physical rehabilitation, psychological support, social grants and economic reintegration initiatives. *liberation struggle,*

### RISK EDUCATION

8. Namibia has conducted extensive risk education campaigns in affected areas, reaching thousands of people. These campaigns include:
- a. School programs.
  - b. Community awareness sessions including (sign boards of "Don't Touch it, Report it").

## **GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN MINE ACTION**

9. Namibia has integrated gender considerations into mine clearance and victim assistance programs. Women are actively involved in mine clearance operations physically on the ground as well as in risk education.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

10. Namibia has received financial and technical support from several international organizations and partners in its efforts to combat and eliminate anti-personnel mines. Key contributors include the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), just to mention but a few. These organizations have provided assistance in mine clearance, victim support, and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen local capabilities. Additionally, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has played a significant role in providing funding and technical expertise to support Namibia's compliance with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

11. Such collaborations have enabled Namibia to advance its mine action programs and work toward the complete elimination of landmine contamination within its borders.

## **COMMITMENT TO THE OSLO ACTION PLAN**

12. Namibia has actively worked towards fulfilling the commitments outlined in the Oslo Action Plan, including:

- a. Producing of reports (Namibia has pending transparency reports), I promise, reports will be produced soon.
- b. Aligning national mine action strategies with the convention's objectives.

## **CHALLENGES**

13. Key challenges include:
- a. Terrain issues.
  - b. Insufficient resources.

- c. Limited access in remote areas.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- 14. Namibia aims to clear all remaining mines by the year 2030, in alignment with the Oslo Action Plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 15. Namibia remains steadfast in its commitment to a mine-free world. Despite challenges, we are dedicated to achieving the goals of the Ottawa Treaty and look forward to continue collaboration with international partners to ensure a safer future for all.