



**Speaking notes by Laurinda Banze, Counsellor, Disarmament
Expert of Permanent Mission of Mozambique on the occasion of
Victim Assistance Experts Meeting 2025**

Strengthening National Frameworks

18th June 2025

1. General Context and Mozambique's Commitments

- Thank you very much for giving me the floor, and I would also like to thank the Moderator for the information provided on the overview of requirements under Actions 30 and 31 of the Siem Reap Action Plan.
- Mozambique has been a State Party to the Ottawa Convention since 1999 and It was declared mine-free in 2015.
- The country remains committed to providing assistance to victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.
- A new national focal point for victim assistance has recently been appointed, **Mr. António Muchave**, who replaces Ms. Eufemia Amela, whom many of us know well.

**2. Mozambique's Realities Regarding the Implementation of
Actions 30 and 31 of the Siem Reap Action Plan**

a) Action 30 – Ensure Sustainable National Coordination

- The main responsibility for victim assistance in Mozambique lies with the **Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Action**, which

coordinates efforts within the broader framework of social assistance to persons with disabilities.

- **Inter-institutional coordination** is conducted through the **National Council for Social Action**, which includes a specific committee for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Victim assistance actions are **integrated into national sectoral plans** and are monitored through the respective performance reviews.
- Mozambique **does not yet have a specific and permanent forum** for the coordination and monitoring of victim prevention, response, and assistance efforts.
- Finally, we recognize the importance of conducting **inclusive national consultations** with victim organizations, civil society, public institutions, and development partners.

b) Action 31 – Integrate Victim Assistance into Human Rights and Development Policies

- In Mozambique, landmine victims are served within the **broader policy framework for persons with disabilities**, reflecting the spirit of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.
- The **Regulations for the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** are in the final stages of drafting.
- The third edition of the **National Disability Plan**, which includes specific actions for landmine victims, is currently being drafted.
 - Victims benefit from:
 - ✓ Basic social protection programs
 - ✓ Vocational training in inclusive environments
 - ✓ Employment and self-employment initiatives
 - ✓ Physical and psychosocial rehabilitation

- ✓ Awareness-raising campaigns to combat stigma and promote inclusion

3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Practices

a) Challenges Identified in Our Country:

- Lack of **disaggregated data on mine victims**, which hampers the design of targeted interventions.
- Absence of a **centralized national victim registry system**—existing data is scattered across sectors.
- **Limited medical evacuation capacity**, particularly in rural areas.
- **Insufficient budget** for victim-specific assistance and support to survivor organizations.
- Need for **technical support** to improve:
 - ✓ Inter-institutional coordination,
 - ✓ Implementation of victim assistance actions,
 - ✓ Development of consistent reports aligned with the Convention's obligations.

b) Synergies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Other Disarmament Treaties

I would like to share some examples of synergies between the CRPD and other disarmament treaties:

- In Mozambique, victim assistance is **integrated into national disability policies**, consistent with the principles of the **CRPD**.
- The **Regulations for the Disability Law** and the **National Disability Plan** reflect Mozambique's commitments under **both the CRPD and the Ottawa Convention**.

- The involvement of organizations such as **RAVIM (Survivor Network of Landmines)**, **DONAKATI**, and **Humanity & Inclusion** illustrates a partnership-based approach in line with the CRPD's principles of **full and effective participation**.
- The country has promoted **capacity-building initiatives** for professionals, community leaders, and local volunteers in partnership with NGOs. Training covers:
 - ✓ Emergency first aid and trauma care
 - ✓ Physical and psychosocial rehabilitation
 - ✓ Social and professional inclusion
 - ✓ Psychosocial support for families
 - ✓ Risk prevention and post-trauma response

Thank you very much for your attention.