



## Republic of Mozambique

### **ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS**

Standing Committee on Mine Clearance  
*Geneva, 25 June 2015*

### **Mozambique Update on Article 5 Implementation**

Delivered by

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Mr. Co-Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique I would like to kindly thank the members of the Article 5 committee for their careful consideration of the situation in Mozambique. We believe the report correctly analyses the current status of article 5 implementation in our country. Mozambique welcomes the comments of the Article 5 committee and we will continue to inform the committee on further progress achieved in reaching our goal of a mine-free Mozambique.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to provide the state parties and observers with a brief update on the current demining efforts in Mozambique. As reported in April, what remained in Mozambique were a total of 17 confirmed and suspected hazard areas covering a total of roughly 35,000 square meters. Most of these areas are suspected hazard areas in the Province of Inhambane and 5 of these areas are confirmed hazard areas located in Sofala Province. As of April this year, all of these areas remained inaccessible due to high water levels that resulted from the rainy season. These areas remain technical challenging due to the level of water in the areas and the need to wait for the dry season to allow deminers to safely access and clear these areas.

I'm happy to report that in May we started work in clearing the areas in Sofala province and three of the five areas are already nearing completion. As of the 20th June, the teams had already cleared a total of 12,369 square meters and destroyed a total of 60 landmines.

Regarding Inhambane Province, the National Demining Institute is continuing to monitor the level of water in the remaining 9 suspected hazard areas in the province with an aim to deploy technical survey and clearance teams to these areas in August. At this stage, we believe Mozambique will be able to successfully complete survey and clearance of all known mined areas by September 2015.

Mr. Co-chair,

Mozambique is well aware that long after the clearance of the last known mine field, the population will still face a threat from residual explosive remnants of war. For this reason, one of our priorities is to train and equip the police to ensure that there is a national sustainable capacity to conduct explosive ordnance disposal. In this way we will ensure that a national capacity is able to address the residual risk from UXO and other explosive remnants of war long after the international humanitarian deminers have left the country.

In closing, the Government of Mozambique reaffirms its commitment to destroy all Anti-Personnel Mines in the country as a pre-condition to social and economic development and in accordance with its obligations under article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We will continue to keep all parties informed on the status of our mine action programme with an aim to formally declare compliance with our Article 5 obligations at the next Meeting of States Parties.

Thank you.

Geneva, 25 June 2015