



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE
CONVENTION**

**Statement on mines retained for
Training in Mozambique**

**Elias Jaime Zimba, Minister Plenipotentiary, Mozambique Mission to the UN and
Other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 25 May 2012

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique, I would like to thank you for allowing me to take the floor on the topic of landmines retained under Article 3 of the Convention. As previously reported, the military forces and humanitarian demining operators maintain a collection of landmines for training purposes.

As reported in Mozambique's most recent Report under article 7, the three humanitarian demining operators maintain a total of 463 mines that are used in the training of deminers and the training and testing of mine detection animals. The Halo Trust maintains in Mozambique, a stock of 87 different types of landmines to train their deminers. All of Halo's training mines in Mozambique are inert, as they are without explosives or detonators. The Handicap International demining teams reported a stock of 50 landmines of different types. The landmines that Handicap International uses to train deminers are reported as inert and lacking explosives or detonators. The landmines used by Handicap for training and refreshing Explosive Detection Dogs contain explosives but no detonators. APOPO maintains a stock of 326 landmines used for training of deminers as well as training, testing and refreshing Mine Detection Rats.

After the NPA left Mozambique in 2006, the National Demining Institute inherited a stock of 520 landmines contained in an NPA training site in the Gondola District of Manica Province. In 2011, the training site was transferred to the Halo Trust, who used the site and the mines for training of their demining teams. The Halo Trust was now finished with the training site and has retained 155 of the mines for future training and destroyed the other 365 mines.

The Mozambique Defense Forces also maintain a stock of 900 landmines for training purposes. They report that the number of landmines have not been increased and are regularly used for training and refreshing of the defense forces demining platoon so that they can contribute to the demining efforts in Mozambique.

The types and quantities of the mines are detailed in the transparency reports. As indicated in Mozambique's annual transparency reports, the total number of mines retained for training has decreased over the years. We expect that the numbers will continue to decrease as they are consumed in training or are no longer needed for training purposes.

MUITO OBRIGADO!