



Republic of Mozambique

**11th Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Victim Assistance**

**Statement by Miguel Maússe, Social Action Director
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Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011

First of all, I would like to commend the President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties for his excellent leadership.

In Mozambique, based on the 2007 census, it is estimated that there are 473,971 people living with disabilities, which corresponds to 2% of the total population. Among them, we find the victims of landmines. Of the total number of people living with disabilities, 20.7% are people without the upper limbs, 12.9% are hearing-impaired people, 9.4% are blind, 8.5% suffer from mental illness, 8.2% had their lower limbs amputated and 7.3% are paraplegics.

Assistance to landmine victims is provided under the framework of the social services policy, namely the policy on persons with disabilities and its implementation strategy, as well as the recently approved Strategy for Basic Social Security. These instruments define guidelines for assistance to persons with disabilities, regardless of the cause of disability.

Mr. President,

The outcome of the evaluation of the 2006 – 2010 National Plan of Action on Disabilities, presents encouraging results on social assistance to people with disabilities in our country. Of these results, we wish to highlight the actions taken in the area of access to education, where 2,452 children were integrated into inclusive education programmes and 307 into special schools. Furthermore, this year 89 children with disabilities or other special education needs were enrolled into the National Institute for the blind. In comparison to the same period in 2010, this represents an increase in the order 46.10%, 14.60% and 8.50% respectively.

Aiming to continue to improve the access to education for children with disabilities, the government also constructed three Resource Centres in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of the country. Each of these 3 resources centres has a capacity of between 220 and 310. These centres will be operational starting from next year.

In the health sector, during 2010 the rehabilitation services treated 47,147 patients in physiotherapy consultations, in one hand, 5,916 patients were attended to in the 10 Orthopaedic Centres that operate in the country, in the other hand.

This year, 353 people with disabilities received support from the 7 Transit Centres, which are institutions that accommodate persons with disabilities, while they go for rehabilitation services in the Orthopaedic Centres. In addition, 543 people with disabilities benefitted from assistance devices.

Through the Information and Referral System, 22,111 people with disabilities benefitted from free medical assistance and medicine in public hospitals across the country.

In the area of social assistance, it was highlighted that the implementation of the programme for financial assistance benefitted 8,404 persons with disabilities that did not have the ability to work.

Mr. President,

In order to improve the social assistance for people with disabilities in our country, the government has increased its efforts to define policies, programmes and mechanisms for coordination.

In this regard, in 2009 the National Council on Disabilities was approved and began its work coordinating and monitoring issues related to disabilities. The Council includes representatives of Government, Civil Society, religious institutions and the private sector.

To facilitate the likelihood of employment, access to jobs, duration of employment, training and empowerment of peoples with disabilities, the government has been implementing since 2009 the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in Public Service.

The implementation of this strategy entails among others, the following actions:

- Training of receptionists and human resources specialists in the public sector to serve persons with disabilities. This preparation includes training in sign language and other resources for the disable.

- The implementation of affirmative action principle that encourages the hiring of people with disabilities in the public sector, including the introduction of a quota system.
- Creation of a data bank on people with disabilities employed in the public sector with a view to enhancing the understanding of their real situation of employment and their working conditions.

With regard to the implementation of the National Strategy for Basic Social Security, in September this year, the government of Mozambique approved the new package of programmes for basic social protection that prioritizes the social assistance to poor and vulnerable people, particularly those families with children, people with disabilities, the elderly and the chronically ill.

At the moment, Mozambique is in the process of elaborating its II National Plan of Action on Disabilities for the period 2012 – 2019, which will provide a framework to continue the implementation of assistance measures for people with disabilities.

This exercise will include the participation of the civil society, in particular RAVIM, an association focused on assistance to landmine victims. Their participation will allow the integration of concrete actions and specific measures to assist landmine victims in Mozambique.

At the international level, Mozambique ratified the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2010.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Mozambique to continue to implement assistance measures for the socio-economic reintegration of people with disabilities in general and in particular for landmine victims in accordance with the Cartagena Plan of Action.

Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011