



STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND

30 November 2015

Mr. President,

May I congratulate you on behalf of the South African delegation on your election as President of the 14th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Please be assured of my delegation's full co-operation and support to ensure the success of this meeting.

Mr. President,

South Africa has consistently emphasized that mine victims still face a number of challenges which include among others: reintegration, inadequate medical emergency and on-going medical care services, lack of accessibility to some victims especially in remote areas, lack of physical and psychosocial support, discrimination in the job market and others.

Early this year, our Heads of States agreed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, which is based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people. Mine victims are vulnerable and require assistance so that their lives can be profoundly improved and their world will be transformed for the better.

Mr. President

Last year we met in Maputo, Mozambique for the Third Review Conference, which saw us make great strides for this Convention. During the RevCon the Committee on Victim Assistance was established to assist States Parties in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance. We have begun to implement the Maputo Action Plan which will bring us closer to our goal of a world-free of mines. Actions #12 – #18 of the Maputo Action Plan are related to Victim Assistance. These actions will ensure that victims of mines are able to fully and effectively participate in society.

South Africa is encouraged by the steps that have been taken by this Committee to exchange best practices and experiences with the coordinators from Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). We support continued collaboration with the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities so we are able to promote progress at a national level.

Mr. President

South Africa wishes to thank the members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for the work that they have undertaken thus far and encourage them to continue their good work. Furthermore we thank Thailand, Cambodia and Peru for the update on their implementation of the Maputo Action Plan.

I thank you.