



República de Moçambique

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT THE 17 MEETING
OF THE CONVENTION ON ANTI - PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION
ITEM 9)α: VICTIM ASSISTANCE

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, NOVEMBER 2018

Mr. President,

At the outset, we wish to express our appreciation to the sense of commitment with which Belgium has been steering the work of the Committee on Victims' Assistance, in line with Maputo Plan of Action, alongside other Committee members.

We speak in our capacity of G - 29, the Group of 29 States Parties who have indicated having a significant number of mines' victims.

Mr. President,

As you have rightly pointed out, Mozambique has submitted its report on this matter, complying with its obligation.

The relevant Mozambican Authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry of Women, Child and Social Affairs, have been **implementing** policies, plans and strategies in the context of actions from **12 to 18 of** Maputo Action Plan, as they seek to cater for the needs of not only mine victims, but also persons with disability, as a whole, amid scarce resources.

Policies, plans and strategic frameworks, on mine victims' assistance, range from economic to social inclusion, just to mention a few.

On economic inclusion, according to an undertaken study, in a sample of 300 mine survivors interviewed, 76% of interviewees live below the poverty line (\$ 1.25 / day), out of which 20.6% are women and 79.4% are men. The majority (64.7%) of the victims were disabled during their daily activities, such as hunting, grazing, farming, firewood and water fetching, among others; and 35.3% in military service.

The study also found that a large proportion (74.1%) of the mines' victims work in the informal sector and 69% in subsistence agriculture.

Furthermore, the study found that of the 300 interviewees, only 7.8% benefited from the social assistance programs implemented by the government. Likewise, due to the requirements demanded by credit institutions, many mine victims cannot access financing for income-generating projects.

To overcome these hindrances, the Government is planning to develop a mechanism for the creation and operationalization of

a fund for initiatives to the disability agenda with contributions from the private sector, by 2020.

On the other side, by the end of 2019, the Government is committed to structuring and budgeting the Social Action Services Program; enhancing existing methodologies and initiatives aimed at ensuring the existence of basic services close to the community and adapted to the needs of people with disabilities, by 2019.

By 2020, the Government will seek to revise policies and strategies (define a quota and monitoring mechanisms) for access to employment by people with disabilities, including mine victims.

On social perspective, the programs are also inclusive and ensure that the right of people with disabilities, including mine survivors, live independently in both cities and rural settings.

Meanwhile, by 2020, the Economic and Social Plans should ensure the mobilization and sectoral allocation of financial resources of at least 5%, to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities in sectors such as education, health, transport, social action and technologies.

By the end of 2019, the Government will define operational manuals for the implementation of Basic Social Security Programs in the light of the National Basic Social Security Strategy 2016-2024 and improve systems and mechanisms for access to programs to ensure transparency and the level of beneficiary knowledge.

Starting in 2019, the Government undertakes to promote initiatives to provide people with disabilities access to technologies and innovations, through literacy on inclusive Information and Communication Technologies, ensuring the dissemination and use of the Universal Access Service, **through Decree No. 69/2006 of 26 December.**

We should point out that persons with disabilities, mine victims and their representative organizations are involved in consultations at local and national level in updating the National Action Plan, in line with the provisions of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) **and the SDG's.**

The Government attaches great importance to mine victims and other persons with disabilities. In this vein, H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic, welcomes and interacts with their representatives, on the occasion of

commemorations of the International Day of People with Disabilities.

As far as cooperation and assistance is concerned, Mozambique has few partners in support of mine victim assistance. These partners generally support small actions in the area of the deficiency, hence the need for more work to ensure mapping in this specific area of mine victims.

To conclude, Mr. President, we wish to reiterate our continuous commitment to the cause of mine victims, but also to invite other partners in a position to do so, to assist us in this daunting, but imperative challenge.

We thank you!