



**STATEMENT OF ANGOLA  
AT THE 18<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF STATE PARTIES  
OF THE MINE BAN TREATY**

*Delivered by*

**Santana Andre Pitra "Petroff"**

**CNIDAH PRESIDENT**

*November 2020*

Mr President

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Angolan Government , allow me to express our congratulations and gratitude to the organising committee for ensuring that the 18<sup>th</sup> MSP of the Mine Ban Treaty is possible even with the global challenges presented by Novel COVID-19.

It is also my pleasure to congratulate other delegations on their solidarity to the Treaty and upon their statements.

Mr President

As always indicated, the Government of Angola gives particular importance to its international obligations under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The government remains fully aware of the grave impact of the protracted periods war and the subsequent contamination of its soils with landmines. In this regard Angola remains more than ever committed to ensuring that these silent killers are eradicated once and for all.

The government of Angola is also cognisant that a fast-tracked eradication of landmines will not only ensure safety of its people, but also guarantee improved, socio-economic livelihoods for the country.

Mr President

Following Angola's update at the Oslo Review Conference, the country together with other national and international mine clearance organisations have continued with the efforts to reduce landmine contamination.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 in 2020, progress has been achieved, to date the previous contamination of **92 KM<sup>2</sup> kilometres** reported at Oslo Review Congress in November 2019 has been reduced to approximately **84 KM<sup>2</sup>**, and the total number of minefields have been reduced from **1,197 minefields** to **1,143 minefields**. This translates to approximately **4 KM<sup>2</sup> Cancelled through NTS, 2 KM<sup>2</sup> released through clearance, and 2 KM<sup>2</sup> reduced through technical survey.**

In addition to these various explosive ordinances have also been recovered and disposed. These include **300 Antipersonnel mines, 90 Anti-tank mines**, and over **2,000 unexploded ordnances**.

These results only highlight our commitment in ensuring that Angola remains committed to its treaty obligations and most importantly guaranteeing safety of its people.

As previously communicated, Angola also continues to benefit from the support provided by the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom through the capacity development of Angola's mine action authorities. With thanks to Norwegian Peoples Aid who are the lead implementing agency for the capacity development project, Angola has managed to strengthen its internal Information Management, Quality Management, and Strategic Management capacities over the last two years.

Mr President

It is important to highlight that the success so far achieved in Angola is also due to the tireless commitment and political will of the Angolan government to eradicate the landmine contamination of the country by observing best practices in coordinating demining activities and promoting systematic interaction between demining organisations and affected communities. This not only supports clearance activities, but also provides essential mine awareness education.

This progress is testimony of the centrality of Angola's partnership with international governmental and non-governmental partners, national organisations and sister government institutions. Angola also recognises the contribution of its donor partners who have given much-needed financing to enable demining work. Our appreciation goes to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Ireland for their tireless support. Our appreciation also goes to the private sector like British Petroleum who have in recent times stood by Angola on this noble cause.

Mr President

Even with the progress so far achieved, the challenge still remains. There are 1,053 Confirmed Hazardous Areas and 90 Suspected Hazardous Areas totalling 1,143 hazardous areas in a total land area of 85million square metres that still has to be cleared.

Alongside the Angolan government's financial commitment and available funding from our donor partners there is still significant need for additional funding to fast track clearance activities in the country.

As stated before, residual contamination is also likely for any State whose territory has been extensively subject to the use of explosive ordinance (EO), and Angola is addressing the issue of residual risk across the country. With the provinces of Huambo, Malange, and Namibe approaching completion, Angola is initiating the process of establishing a residual risk management capacity in the country to take care of any future challenges of this sort.

Mr President

Angola's unique approach to demining with the inclusion of biodiversity remains an area of interest and priority. To this end, the Government's recent commitment of 60 million USD over five years to the clearance of an area of special natural significance with a view to creating a sustainable, community-focused ecotourism centre and begin the process of diversifying the country's economy has come to pass with an initial provision of 18 million USD to HALO TRUST for clearance of minefields in the Okavango Delta Area.

Mr President

I would like to end by repeating Angola's commitment to the full implementation of its obligations to the Mine Ban Treaty, and implementation of its commitment to the Oslo Action Plans. The Angolan government remains committed to ensuring that 2025 becomes a reality.

**Thank you!**