



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS E COOPERAÇÃO

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JÚLIO BRAGA
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL DEMINING INSTITUTE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**AT THE 7TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE OTTAWA CONVENTION**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM: MINE CLEARANCE, MINE VICTIM
ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGIES**

GENEVA, 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

**Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At outset, I would like to congratulate you Madam President upon your election to preside over this Meeting. Indeed, this is an important event as it allows us to evaluate the work and the progresses achieved since the last Meeting of States Parties held in Zagreb.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Secretariat and all those who were involved in the preparation of the documents made available to us for their very positive work

Likewise, my delegation wishes to pay the deserved tribute to the Government of Switzerland for hosting this Meeting, which represents a crucial moment in the global efforts aimed at searching new and fertile avenues and efficient mechanism that will allow us to better perform our duty.

Many local communities in Mozambique continue to suffer from landmines, originating deaths and mutilating innocent persons. Since 2003, our country is undertaking surveying, reconfirmation and cancellation activities of mine-affected areas with a view to improving the knowledge on the situation of remaining mines, a task to be concluded by the end of this year. This exercise is aimed at determining the dimension of the prevailing mine problem taking into account the 2009 deadline for the conclusion of the mine clearance process.

For the Government of Mozambique it is very important to accomplish the 2009 deadline. In this context, the government together with its partners and the civil society are elaborating Strategic Plan for 2007-2009. The main objective of this Strategic Plan is to focus on prevailing problem and to

determine the real needs so that to ensure the accomplishment of the mine clearance process within the deadline established by the Convention.

Surveys and clarification programs are currently ongoing with involvement of three international humanitarian operators, covering all ten provinces of the country. However, only seven provinces benefit from identification and clarification and the remaining three provinces will only be covered by surveys activities. According to the preliminary information data, until mid 2007, four provinces will be free of land mine impact and in other six provinces, operations will continue up to its completion.

Madam President

We are committed to be one of the first States Parties to declare the completion of destruction of all anti-personal mines by 2009 as it is established in the Convention. However, as it was noted, the global funding for Mine Clearance Programs has decreased considerably in the last years, which affects Mozambique Mine Action Programme as it depends essentially on international community assistance.

In the other hand, we note with apprehension that some of our major international partners are exiting their funds from the programme in a moment when the mine situation is still critical and the 2009 deadline is approaching.

According to the available data for the next three years (2007-2009) the estimated preliminary amount necessary for the programme is approximately USD 44.0 million. Note that this amount will be updated by the end of this year when the real situation of mine contamination is determined. Therefore, we appeal to all our partners and those in position to provide us with their assistance, to do so in order to ensure that Mozambique successfully fulfils its obligations under article 5.

Demining continues as priority activity for the government of Mozambique in its commitment to fight against absolute poverty. Despite resource limitations, the government has been annually doubling efforts with view to encompassing land mine problem. This year its contribution was approximately USD 1.2 millions for Mine Action Program.

With regard to the period post 2009, the government is considering Armed Defence Forces to be the legal entity to deal with residual landmine issues. It is in this spirit that training programs are envisioned to ensure effective operational capacity of the Armed Defence Forces before 2009.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Ukraine, Brunei Darussalam, Haiti and Cook Island for having ratified the Anti-personnel Ban Treat, a valuable contribution for the universalization of this important international instrument. I equally congratulate the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the fulfilment of its obligation under the article 5 of the Convention before 2009 deadline.

Ladies and Gentlemen

To conclude I would like to once again to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Mozambique to fight against anti-personnel mines.

I wish a success in our deliberations during this meeting.

I thank you.

Geneva, 19 September 2006