

ANGOLA DELEGATION

Your Royal Highness, President of the Eighth Meeting of State Parties

Distinguished Delegates to the 8MSP
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you for the election as Chairman of the works of this meeting of State Parties, as well as the brilliant way you have been conducting them.

I would also like to manifest my appreciation and gratitude to the people and government of Jordan for the warm reception from the day of our arrival in this beautiful historic city in the Dead Sead.

Angola has been engaged in the fulfillment of the Ottawa Convention's obligations as State Party and the Government has established an important instrument that controls, coordinates, elaborates policies and monitors all mine action activities – The National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) developed the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2006-2011, which was approved by the Council of Ministers on 6th September 2006.

As far as the Article 5 is concerned the Angolan Government has allocated both human and financial resources in order to tackle this gigantic task of demining the whole country with the support of the international community.

- The targets set are achievable as long as we double the efforts and strengthen the technical and operational capacity of the governmental and non-governmental organizations working on mine action in the country. For this reason and aiming at fulfilling with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, the Angolan Government in its Strategic Plan expects:

- To clear all high impacted areas in the country to zero % by 2011

- To reduce 50% all medium impacted areas by 2011

- To mark all low impacted areas so that they can be cleared on a later stage, by using resources from both community and operators, and,

- To re-direct Mine Risk Education activities to the impacted communities and those at great risk in areas identified by the LIS and coordinate a strategy to assist mine victims.

Based on previous reports drafted by International Organizations operating in Angola from 1996 to 1997, it was estimated that mine contamination had covered at least 35% of national territory.

Still on the fulfillment of the Article 5 obligations the Angolan Government had established priorities such as the

- demining of agricultural areas,
- resettlement areas,
- demining and reconstruction of roads and bridges so as to allow free circulation of people and goods,
- demining along common borders
- Demining of military facilities surrounded by communities, airports and schools

Furthermore, an agreement between the Survey Action Center and the Government of Angola was established and as a result another Survey was conducted and this time on the socio-economic impact on the communities which started on April 2004 and ended on May 2007, this project entitled "Landmine Impact Survey" had identified 1.988 impacted communities on the 18 provinces. At these provinces, 40 communities corresponding to 2% are highly impacted areas, 455 (23%) of medium impact and 1493 (75%) of low impact.

The ALIS estimates that 2.376.068 people live in impacted localities, a figure that represents 20% of the Angolan population.

The LIS and the Stockpile Destruction Project which Angola had completed in December 2006, will provide detail information on the current situation, including former mine fields around UNITA facilities, especially on the surrounding villages.

The tasks and duties such as planning, creation of policies and coordination were delegated to CNIDAH, whilst the operational functions were attributed to the Demining National Institute (INAD). Since 2004, these institutions had evolved and presented major improvements in their interventions. CNIDAH is now concentrating in the coordination and strategic planning, policy-making, information management and quality assurance.

The Executive Commission for Demining (CED) was established in 2005, to exclusively coordinate **demining** activities carried out by the Angolan Armed Forces, INAD and Office of National Reconstruction (GNR) and Engineering Brigades of the Army. INAD is concentrating on demining operations and administration of the Demining National School.

DEMINING

During the period the following figures were registered:

- 2.565 km of road
- 8.232.336m² cleared areas
- 5.319 AP mines removed and destroyed
- 317 AT mines removed and destroyed
- 66.402 UXOS destroyed

Various projects were funded through UNDP under the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) – with the aim of increasing the current clearance capacity of National Organizations. It was due to this support that in 2002/2005 the previous figure of 5km²/year had increased to 10km²/year.

Quality Control

- CNIDAH as the principal organ of Mine Action, has within its obligations the quality control missions component of all mine action activities and particularly to the demining pillar carried out by any operator (public, private or humanitarian) national or international.
- In order to ensure the fulfillment of this enormous task with more clarity, security and inclusion, the government allocated funds to equip regional teams with updated and modern equipments and human means.
- This activity is reflected with a capacity at central and provincial level, counting today with 9 teams covering all national territory.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to reaffirm my Government's commitment in complying with the OTTAWA Convention's obligations, in which my country is a Member State.

I take this opportunity to once again congratulate you for the way you are conducting the Works of the Eighth Meeting of State Parties and thank all those who are directly or indirectly participating in the organization of this event.

I THANK YOU