



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**  
**MINISTRY OF THE WOMAN AND OF SOCIAL ACTION**

**STATEMENT BY MOZAMBIQUE ON AGENDA ITEM: MINE  
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE**

**AMMAN, 20 NOVEMBER 2007**

Distinguished Co-chairs

Dear Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by joining previous speakers in congratulating the co-chairs for the excellent leadership of the victim assistance committee and wish you well in the discharge of your noble functions.

I would also like to thank the organizers for giving us an opportunity to briefly share our experience on the actions carried out in Mozambique aimed at improving the quality of life of all people with disability, including landmine victims.

In 2006, the National Plan of Action for Disability was approved by the Council of Ministers, with the objective of improving coordination and complementarity of the efforts in the assistance process to the people with disability and the sharing of information on actions carried out by the government institutions and national and international civil society organizations.

The overall goal of the plan is to promote the full participation, equality and empowerment of people with disabilities and to secure the principle of equal rights and opportunity for people with disabilities.

One of the biggest challenges in implementing this plan is the lack of data regarding the number of people with disability. In this regard, the

population census concluded in August this year, includes questions related to disability with a view to overcome this difficulty and it has provided clearer statistic data. We expect this report of the census to be released by December this year.

In terms of coordination, an Inter-sectorial Technical Group for National Plan Implementation was created in September 2007 composed of various ministries, including Woman and of Social Action, Health, Labour, Education and Culture and the civil society organizations. The group is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plan by all stakeholders. Additionally, a National Council on Disability is expected to be established by the end of 2008.

In the area of education, there was an increase of children and youth access into the inclusive education. Approximately 6058 school children were integrated into inclusive learning program this year.

Other activities in the educational sector included training of teachers and social workers in terms of special educational needs; a sign language course, and information on HIV/Aids programs for the blind and deaf in Braille.

In terms of economic reintegration, training courses were developed and provided to 200 youth landmine survivors in Sewing, electricity, carpenters and management of small business. In addition,

integration of persons with disability in projects of income generation, social grants and Community Development was carried out.

In the area of rehabilitation care, *reinforced* capacity of the Rehabilitation Based in Community Programs at provincial level with the objective of identifying and providing information on available services for people with disability was conducted.

Programs were developed to reinforce the capacity of teachers and health workers in prevention of visual impairment.

We continue to build capacity for basic and medium level physiotherapy and orthopaedics technicians.

A process of establishing a strategy for people with disability in public sector is underway.

### **Perspectives**

Some of our objectives for 2009 include integration of "disability" into the teachers training curricula; qualify more professionals from health, education and others public sector workers in service assistance using sign language; increase the access of people with disability in the *public sector employment* , through allocation of a certain percentage of vacancies for this group of the people.

The Council of Ministers has approved, in October this year, the regulation for accessibility for people with disability and/or conditioned mobility for all new or reconstructed infrastructures.

The Mozambican Government remains committed to providing adequate assistance to mine survivors and to all people with disability. We wish to express our most sincere appreciation to all international partners who have been supporting our endeavours.

I thank you Distinguished Co-Chairs.