



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**NINETH MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE OTTAWA
CONVENTION, NOVEMBER 24th - 28th 2008**

**THE PRESENTATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ON ASSISTANCE
TO DISABLED PEOPLE AND LAND MINES VICTIMS**

Statement by: Carlos Passe

GENEVA, 27th NOVEMBER 2008

MR. PRESIDENT

EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Mozambique continues to implement the 2006 National Plan for Disability which overall goal 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, including landmines survivors.

Coordination function is carried out by the Technical Group for National Plan Implementation, composed of various ministries, including the ministries of Woman and Social Action, Health, Labour, Education and Culture and the civil society organizations, and it is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plan by stakeholders.

A progress report has already been produced by the Technical Group for National Plan Implementation, which indicated the positive achievements in assisting disable people and in inter-ministerial coordination.

In order to reduce permanent physical and mental disability, several activities have been developed including sensitization of the community leaders and clinical personnel at various levels to follow up as early as possible with the services of physical rehabilitation medicine.

Regarding physical rehabilitation infrastructures, equipment and materials, the Government is making a lot of effort in upgrading the infrastructures and importation of tools and materials so that centres will all follow a typical model at national level, according to their classification and for them to meet the most appropriate standards. Some orthopaedic centres are well equipped with updated materials and machinery. However, most centres are still in need of upgrading.

Approach on adequate and proper trained personnel lies at the centre of the Mozambican Government strategy for victim assistance. Therefore, training in 2007/2008 included two upgrading courses in Physiotherapy and Ortho-prosthetics to the level of Diploma, with 7 Orthopaedic technologists and 27 physio technicians trained. The training included 5% of students with disabilities.

For the period of 2008 to 2011, three more training courses are underway for 81 trainees in several courses related to victim assistance.

Social and economic integration for disable people is of paramount importance for a more decent and worthwhile life. This includes components underway such as:

- Vocational and professional training
- Opportunities for income generation
- Integration in the social grants program, and
- Community development program

Training in specific practical courses, such as tailors, blacksmiths, electricians, bicycle repairing, refrigeration, management of small businesses, craftsmanship, mechanics, shoe making, carpentry, brick making, for 441 youths with disabilities in the whole country carried out by the Mozambican Government proved to be relevant for the needs identified.

In tandem with this positive experience, in 2008, other activities for vocational orientation and promotion of employment were implemented for 86 persons with disabilities of which 38 were

men and 48 were women, thus bringing the gender dimension and particularly the role of women in our society as a mainstream of our approach.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one of the important international instruments that our country has adhered to. Consequently Government of Mozambique is making effort to follow administrative procedures for ratification in due course.

EXCELLENCY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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.

THANK YOU.

OBRIGADO