



ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE

10 APRIL 2014

Agenda item 5 – draft Maputo Action Plan

My delegation would like first of all to congratulate you, Mr President-designate, for Mozambique's leadership of this process so far. You and your team, led at this end by Ambassador Comissário, have worked very hard to get us to where we are now. We will continue to support you wholeheartedly as we move closer to Maputo.

Speaking broadly on the set of papers you have produced so far, New Zealand is pleased with the significant progress that has been made since our last meeting in December. All three papers have benefited from a refining process that has taken the concepts expressed in the original papers and shaped them into a more holistic, inter-linked set of proposals. The task of setting the Convention's direction for the next five years is not an easy one – it requires vision, and an action plan and a meeting programme that will deliver that vision. No doubt there will be more shaping of the papers to come, but we consider that they are fundamentally on the right track.

I will turn now to the paper under discussion, the draft Maputo Action Plan. While the draft Action Plan is necessarily focused on the period until 2019, we consider that it is appropriate and indeed welcome for the Action Plan to set an aspirational target for completion of the current States Parties' time-bound obligations. We also welcome the fact that the draft Action Plan provides a coherent and attainable set of timelines, where relevant, for States Parties to report on their progress in implementing the Convention. We consider this a useful initiative that will help to provide a snapshot of the Convention, allowing affected States Parties to mobilise resources in support of the completion of their obligations.

We would support further work, Mr President-designate, in drawing increased linkages between the draft Action Plan and the meeting programme and machinery proposal. It may be helpful, for instance, to refer to some of the proposed new structures on Article 5 clearance in the section on mine clearance.