

MAPUTO +15

Draft Declaration of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

22 May 2014

Since we first gathered fifteen years ago, tremendous progress has been achieved, but more needs to be done:

1. Fifteen years have passed since the international community first gathered in Maputo to begin the historic effort to fulfil the promise made by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. In 1997, States, both mine-affected and others, civil society, the International Committee of the Red Cross and international organizations came together in an unprecedented partnership to ban anti-personnel landmines. Both proud of our accomplishments and mindful of what work remains, we have returned to this once mine-ravaged country, committed to complete the task of ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, for all people for all time.

2. In May of 1999, there were but 45 parties to the Convention and Mozambique was one of only 18 States in Africa that had committed to this movement. There are now 161 States that are bound by this Convention and there is virtually universal acceptance of the Convention in Africa. There is widespread agreement that the use of anti-personnel mines is unacceptable and that its disastrous humanitarian and socio-economic consequences should be ended once for ever. For this reason, we will spare no effort to continue promoting universal adherence to the Convention and observance of its norms.

3. When we first gathered in Maputo, the clearance of all mined areas was a distant prospect and perhaps, to some, unachievable. Today, almost 30 States have completed this effort, which proves completion of our mine clearance obligations is within reach. We remain deeply concerned that emplaced mines still continue to cause death and suffering around the world. Therefore our efforts to demine must be carried out in the most efficient and expedient manner.

4. In Maputo in 1999, the international community first expressed that a comprehensive approach to victim assistance is required with our efforts being part of broader approaches to health care, rehabilitation, human rights and other domains. The Convention has made a difference and we remain very much aware of our enduring obligations to mine victims. Acting within broader national and international policies and frameworks related to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction will help ensure further progress towards the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society.

We will continue our efforts based on a unique spirit of cooperation and partnership:

5. In Maputo in 1999, we created innovative mechanisms to address circumstances specific to that time. Returning today to where international efforts to implement to the Convention all began, we embrace the opportunity to adapt in order to meet the challenges of this day and beyond. The success of the Convention is based on the combination of national ownership and international cooperation. As sovereign States, we are individually responsible for compliance with, and implementation of, the Convention in all areas under our respective jurisdiction or control. As a community of States, we know that partnerships, including those between affected and other States, international organisations and civil society, will accelerate the ending of the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. Fifteen years after our first high-level gathering in Maputo, it is

clearer than ever that maintaining this Convention's unique strong spirit of cooperation is essential to overcome remaining challenges.

We are committed to comply and complete:

6. The sense of optimism prevalent in Maputo in 1999 has been matched by the reality that ending the era of anti-personnel mines is indeed possible. We aspire to do this **[within a decade]**, affirm our ambition being to maintain strict observance of the Convention's norms, to complete implementation of our time-bound obligations as soon as possible **[and no later than by 2025]**, to ensure that by that time there are no new mine victims in areas under our jurisdiction or control, and ensure the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society. Having returned to Mozambique, we are committed to realise this ambition, guided by the Maputo Action Plan during the period 2014 to 2019.

7. Determined to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, we will:

- Fulfil our obligations to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines and clear all mined areas as soon as possible, mindful that cooperation will accelerate completion of these tasks.
- Ensure compliance with the Convention's comprehensive prohibitions on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and facilitate compliance with our obligations under this Convention, by working together in the Convention's unique spirit of cooperation.
- Continue to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms, condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-state actors, work to prevent any future use, and appeal to the world to join us.
- Increase our efforts to address the needs of mine victims in a concrete manner with the aim of achieving their full, equal and effective participation in society.
- Ensure the involvement of mine victims in our efforts, which will be done in a gender- and age-appropriate manner. The dignity and well-being of survivors, their families and communities will be at the core of our efforts.
- Strengthen national ownership and capacity, enhance cooperation, and establish partnerships for completion.
- Stay focused and spare no efforts until the main object and purpose of the Convention are fully materialised.