



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**3RD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Maputo, 27 June 2014

Statement for High Level Segment by Germany

Mr. President,

Germany wishes to thank you once again for the excellent preparation of this Review Conference. *Quero agradecer o Mozambique pela hospitalidade!* Fifteen years after the Convention's entry into force and since the First Meeting of States Parties in 1999, which was also held in Maputo, Mozambique is a good example of how a heavily mine-affected country has effectively tackled its anti-personnel mine contamination and is on the track to complete the job at the end of 2014.

Mr. President, I align myself with the statement of the European Union.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction has been and will remain a landmark treaty in international humanitarian law. Its effective implementation is crucial in order to protect civilians from the devastating effects of anti-personnel mines. We have come a long way with 161 States adhering to the principles of the Convention. In Africa, almost every State has become a State Party to the Mine Ban Convention.

Many contaminated areas have been cleared of anti-personnel mines. Yet, challenges remain and problems need to be tackled. Therefore we welcome the *Maputo Action Plan's* concrete and achievable action points to step up our universalization efforts, to destroy stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, to clear minefields and to assist victims of anti-personnel mines. The *Maputo Action Plan* will make a real and measurable contribution towards addressing the anti-personnel mine problem during the next five years.

Anti-personnel mines were widely used in international and internal armed conflicts alike and continue to be a threat to the civilian population long after hostilities have ceased. Clearing mined areas will remain a noticeable challenge. It is time-consuming to determine the extent of contamination, to choose appropriate clearing methods and to clear areas often contaminated with a mix of unexploded ordnance or with difficult geographical features.

Cooperation and assistance is indispensable in order to support affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In this regard the Convention's unique spirit of cooperation and assistance should be enhanced.

Germany is privileged to provide substantial support for mine clearance, stockpile destruction and other activities related to the objectives of the Mine Ban Convention. In 2013 around 16 million EUR were spent for this purpose.

Mr. President,

Germany will continue its strong support for mine action in the upcoming cycle up to the Fourth Review Conference, thus helping to crown the *Maputo Action Plan* with success.

Obrigado, Senhor Presidente!