

STATEMENT BY MR MARTEN N. KAPEWASHA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE DURING THE 3RD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION HELD IN MAPUTO- MOZAMBIQUE, 23 – 27 JUNE 2014.

Mr. President

Your Royal Highnesses

Hon. Ministers

Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners

Esteemed Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Namibian Delegation, allow me first to congratulate you Mr. President for being elected as president of the 3rd Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition, of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Secondly I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and its people for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful City of Maputo.

We would also like to thank you for the excellent facilities provided to this conference. At the same time, I should congratulate the people of Mozambique for the well organized and successful celebration of the 39th independence anniversary.

Furthermore, I would like to commend the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for successfully hosting the 3rd Review of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Mr. President, Namibia was among the first countries which signed the Convention in 1997 in Ottawa, Canada and subsequently ratified it in 1998.

The demining operations in Namibia on the fenced and marked minefields started way back in 1995 before the Convention entered into force. The first phase of this undertaking was the training of the trainers and the second was the training of de-miners with the assistance of International organizations.

In 2002, Namibia completed its de-mining operations without any casualties. In this regard, Namibia complied and fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention and is ready to assist where possible.

The mined areas mostly around the former South African Apartheid army bases which were regarded dangerous to the community were cleared of anti-personnel mines by our Engineer Units and eventually handed over to the community for production purposes. Under our vigorous de-mining campaign with the slogan: **‘Don’t touch It, Report It’** we successfully minimized the victims of anti-personnel mines and other Unexploded Ordnances (UXOS).

Namibia reaffirms its commitment to the Convention and joins other States Parties and International Organizations to eradicate the Use, Stockpiling, Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and urge for the total destructions of these remnants of war.

Mr. President, Namibia is therefore encouraging all States Parties to comply with the Convention and urge those outside it to join the without any further delay.

Mr. President, esteemed participants, in conclusion, Anti-Personnel Mines remain a big threat to the lives of many innocent people in all corners of the world, therefore concerted efforts must be exerted to eradicate the Anti-Personnel Mines and all remnants of war in order to live in a safe world.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!