



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Third Review Conference
High-Level Segment
Statement delivered by H.E. Dell Higgin
27 June 2014**

Mr President

I should like to thank you and your excellent team for the very warm welcome to your country and for the steadfast leadership you have provided both in preparation for, and during, this Review Conference.

Your country recognised the importance and potential impact of this Convention from the outset. Since hosting the first Meeting of States Parties in this city 15 years ago, Mozambique has moved from being one of the world's most mine-affected countries to being today on the brink of being mine-free. This country's dedication to the task of mine clearance and to assisting its mine victims, in partnership with donor states and civil society and within the framework of the Convention, clearly illustrates the Treaty's impact and its success.

This is a Treaty that saves lives - and will continue to do so. It could not be more appropriate for us to return to Maputo 15 years later as we take stock of our successes and equip the Convention to meet the challenges ahead.

New Zealand has been proud to be behind this Convention since its inception. Our support for mine action and victim assistance efforts, from Cambodia to the West Bank, through bilateral channels and through multilateral agencies such as the UN Mine Action Service and the UN Development Programme, is well known. We support this Treaty not only because it banned, and will rid the world of, anti-personnel landmines, but also because in doing so it enables so many communities to move on, to recover land lost to conflicts which may have long finished, and to realise their development and economic potential without risking their lives. This humanitarian mission is at the Treaty's heart and is its success.

New Zealand has been pleased to support Mozambique's vision for the future, as set out in the documents which this Review Conference will soon adopt. We consider these documents, particularly the Maputo Action Plan and the decision relating to the Convention's implementation machinery, will equip us well to meet the challenges ahead. We are very pleased that the Maputo Declaration has retained its important level of aspiration, and which will be a focus for our efforts in the years ahead.

Now, fifteen years after its entry into force, the Convention is beginning a new phase. Tremendous progress has been made in mine clearance, in stockpile destruction and in assisting the victims of landmines. But challenges remain, and meeting those challenges will require us to adapt to new circumstances. The work of mine clearance is changing as areas needing clearance diminish and new clearance techniques are adopted, and as mine action programmes become further embedded in national development plans. Synergies between this Convention and those related to it - such as the Cluster Munitions Convention - will need to be fully realised in an era of increasing competition for scarce resources.

But this Conference's outcome documents, fully implemented, will position us well for the future. We warmly welcome the creation, for instance, of a new committee focused on mine clearance – a dedicated group of States Parties that will maintain an overview of all efforts to implement Article 5, and following the whole 'life cycle' of this process. We hope that the committee's work, particularly its close engagement with affected States Parties, will reduce the number of extension requests in the years ahead.

This Convention's unique spirit of partnership blazed a trail by placing humanitarian concerns at the centre of its call to action. States have not acted alone in responding to that call. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the International Committee of the Red Cross will continue to play a core role in this cooperative effort, as will other important civil society groups. Their ongoing support for and input into the implementation of our commitments continues to be essential.

The success of this Third Review Conference is something of which Mozambique can and should be proud.