

**STATEMENT BY COL. DR. EDWARD VICTOR MASALLA – HEAD  
OF DELEGATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO  
THE “MAPUTO SUMMIT ON MINE FREE WORLD”.  
23<sup>rd</sup> TO 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014**

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Mr. President,**

I join others in congratulating you on your appointment. The United Republic of Tanzania is committed to working constructively with you and the other distinguished delegates towards this important moment of ensuring our precious World treasured to us by God is free from mines and let our People enjoy their lives without any threat of catastrophic disasters caused by land mines. Through your diplomatic skills and experience Mr. President, my country confidently believes that you will lead this conference to a success.

**Mr. President,**

The Mine Ban Treaty’s Third Review Conference (3RC) takes place in Maputo, Mozambique, marks another critical moment in the Treaty’s history. The Third Review Conference takes place fifteen years (15) after the treaty’s entry into force and the first meeting of States parties in 1999, which was also held in Maputo. The United Republic of Tanzania congratulates the Mozambique Government for making a remarkable history as one of the countries affected by landmines. My country is highly inspired by Mozambique’s example of how a heavily mine affected country has effectively tackled its landmine contamination. Tanzania strongly believes that renewed determination, sufficient recourse and the use of good practice, all states parties can complete their major Mine Ban Treaty obligations. The Third Review Mine Conference in Maputo should therefore be seen as the starting

point of countdown to completion of the Mine Ban Treaty's obligations and should be accompanied by a genuine commitment of efforts and recourses by the International community in order to meet this challenge. My country further calls for all states parties to promote International norm created by the Convention that use of Anti-Personnel mine is prohibited and unacceptable, continue further International cooperation towards strengthening human security.

**Mr. President,**

The Mine Ban Treaty has made tremendous, tangible progress in the past years both in alleviating the human suffering caused by Anti-Personnel landmines and the prevention of new suffering. It has brought about on near halt to use of the weapon globally, the destruction of tens of millions of stockpiled mines and huge expansion in mine clearance, risk education and victim assistance programs. This success is largely due to the ongoing collaboration between governments and civil society. This partnership needs to be **reaffirmed** and **maintained** more than ever the life of the Mine Ban Treaty.

**Mr. President,**

Landmines and cluster munitions pose significant dangers to civilians for two principal reasons. Their impact at the time of use and their deadly legacy. Launched from the ground or dropped from the air, cluster munitions or bombs consist of containers that open and disperse submunitions indiscriminately over wide areas, claiming both civilian and military victims. Many explosive submunitions or bomblets fail to detonate as designed when they are dispersed, becoming "**de facto**" landmines that kill and maiming indiscriminately long after the conflict has ended, and create barriers to socio-economic development for our people. Mr. President and distinguished delegates, we all agree

that Ant-Personnel mines is a living problem with socio-economic consequences which cause great suffering and pain to people in several countries.

**Mr. President,**

The United Republic of Tanzania fully supports the total elimination of cluster munitions and Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) in all their forms and kind. Based on that reality, my country remains a party and signatory to several of the current legally binding Regional and International Instruments relating to Disarmament. In this regard, my delegation assures you Mr. President and the entire distinguished delegates to this Third Review Conference that, The United Republic of Tanzania does not use, produce, transfer or stockpile any kind of weapon of mass destruction. My country remains a firm believer to such legally binding instruments which foster the complete elimination of WMD including the land mine and remnants of war for the betterness of our people's survival.

**Mr. President,**

The purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel mines and on their destruction is to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by Anti-Personnel mines. Returning all areas containing Anti-Personnel mines to a state fit for normal human activity is necessary. In order to realize this promise, the Convention accordingly, in Article 5, requires that each state party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all Anti-Personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.

**Mr. President,**

In recent years, the pursuit of the Convention's mine clearance aim has shown that implementation of Article 5 is indeed possible, and, for many, that it is possible in years, not decades. This has been demonstrated by an increasing number of State Parties reporting that most if not all areas under their jurisdiction, or control, that previously contained Anti-Personnel mines are now fit for normal human activity, Mozambique being an example. This achievement has been greatly aided by technical and conceptual advances in the field of humanitarian demining and by the ongoing development of the United Nations International Mine Action Standards.

**Mr. President,**

However, the International mine action community has developed the framework for how humanitarian demining should be undertaken through the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The IMAS serve as "a framework of standard and guidelines which, together, harmonies the manner in which activities and tasks are conducted by the different organizations and agencies involved". These standards have been developed to improve safety, efficiency and effectiveness in mine action and to promote a common and consistent approach to the conduct of mine action operations. They assist National Authorities in establishing National Standards and standing operating procedures.

**Mr. President,**

Increasing attention among the States Parties is now being given to the role of mine-action in support of efforts to achieve or maintain peace within and between countries. Mine action can play an important role in peace building. Emerging mine action initiatives may foster confidence between parties in conflict. Engagement in mine action may also support reconciliation at various levels, ultimately mine action

breeds general support for the peace process through its direct impact on people's daily lives, eliminating risks, reopening routes in cleared areas or freeing up scarce resources, such as land and water sources.

**In Conclusion Mr. President,**

The United Republic of Tanzania reiterates that, despite of significant progress that has been made and lives have been saved. However, challenges remain, and the Maputo Third Review Conference is the chance for the International Community to regroup to deal with the realities of what remains at this point in time in the Anti-Landmines movement and to encourage all States which are not members to the Convention to accede if possible during this Third Review Conference.

**I THANK YOU.**