

Statement of the United Kingdom

High Level Segment – 3rd Review Conference, Maputo, 23-27 June 2014

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

First, on behalf of the United Kingdom, let me congratulate Mozambique on having organised an excellent Review Conference, and may I thank them for their attentive hospitality.

Mr President,

Your country is an outstanding example of what can be achieved with concerted political will and focused effort, and the United Kingdom salutes Mozambique as it nears completion of its national demining process. We also acknowledge the energy and commitment of Ambassador Commissario and the Mozambican delegation in Geneva. They are excellent colleagues.

Mr President,

Before I say more about the work of this Conference, an issue was raised in another statement to which I am obliged to respond. The United Kingdom has no doubts about its sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The principle of self-determination underlies our position, and the outcome of the March 2013 referendum sent a clear message that the residents of the islands wish to remain a UK overseas territory.

Mr President,

This Third Review Conference has given us all an opportunity to refocus our attention on the damage done by anti-personnel mines to untold lives and livelihoods across the world, and to recommit ourselves to the work of the Convention in creating a safer, more secure and prosperous future without their use. The Review Conference represents an important milestone in surveying the successes that States Parties have achieved, as well as the challenges that remain.

To that end, the UK welcomes the statement made by the USA indicating its commitment not to produce or otherwise acquire anti-personnel munitions not compliant with the Convention. We welcome also their continuing efforts in humanitarian mine action.

Mr President,

The UK has long been a supporter of work to address the humanitarian and developmental effects of anti-personnel mines. Over 2010-2013, we funded projects in ten countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia worth over £38 million. Looking forward, we have committed £30 million over the next three years, and have been procuring contracts for work in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Mozambique. These significant sums of money will allow children to play freely and safely, farmers to work without fear, and communities to reclaim land which had long been lost to them.

The UK Government is also a significant supporter of healthcare systems in developing countries across the world, providing support for all people, whether victims of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, or armed conflict generally, as well as defending the rights of those with disabilities. This support is provided in a non-discriminatory way, and aims to improve capacity in a sustainable mechanism.

Mr President,

We are enormously appreciative that all of the States Parties to the Convention, under your leadership, have been able to gather here in Maputo, and to agree on such a constructive set of outcome documents. These will guide States Parties in continuing to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. They are an indication of the States Parties' will to continue to work for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and to tackle the suffering and human damage they cause.

The UK will continue to support the work of the Convention in this endeavour.

Thank you.