



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty 3rd Review Conference, 23-27 June, Mozambique

Delivered by Mr. Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) Director

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia, I would like to thank you for your invitation to this landmark conference. As you know, Somalia became the 160th State Party Member of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2012. This marked the binding of all Sub-Saharan Africa within the Convention. With the establishment of the new Federal Government of Somalia, in that same year, Somalia embarked upon a new beginning with a strong focus on promoting peace, development and encouraging national reconciliation.

The Federal Government of Somalia successfully established the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) in August 2013, endorsed through a Presidential Decree. We are very proud that SEMA is leading the way in implementing sustainable solutions to Somalia's explosive hazards. Mandated by a number of key policy documents, including the National Security Stabilisation Plan (NSSP) and Somali Compact, SEMA, with technical support from UNMAS, is working to mitigate a wide range of explosive threats which pose significant challenges to security and stabilisation.

The Federal Government of Somalia continues to make good headway in managing the explosive threat and in consolidating an institution that will provide the foundation for developing durable, Somali led solutions. The importance of building legitimate and representative security structures, capable of leading an effective response to the numerous explosive challenges facing Somalia today, cannot be stressed enough. In this regard, I am pleased to report that the Somalia's Police explosive ordnance disposal units are the primary responders to explosive hazard calls-outs in several key cities, including Mogadishu; however, they are not enough teams, and they lack the necessary equipment and training, to tackle major insurgent threats.

I am concerned about the lack of funding for humanitarian mine action efforts across Somalia. The international community provides generous support to AMISOM in countering Improvised Explosive Devices, creating the perception that the mine action sector in Somalia is well funded and without additional needs. The reality remains, Mr. President, that humanitarian mine action is almost entirely without funding, and SEMA is far from being able to respond to the pressing needs of communities and displaced people across the country. Given the significant gains made by AMISOM and the Federal Government of Somalia in combating the insurgents and in liberating communities affected by armed conflict, the time for support is now.

Due to more than two decades of conflict, we do not yet know the full scope of Somalia's landmine problem; however, with much needed resources from the international community, I expect that SEMA, in partnership with UNMAS, will be soon able to determine the extent of the challenge ahead. I look forward to reporting back to you at the next annual meeting of States Parties with this information, which is essential for national authorities to devise adequate plans and for stakeholders, including the States Parties, to assess both the support required and the progress being achieved.



I thank you for your support as we work towards an end to the suffering caused to Somali communities and returnees, and the threat posed to humanitarian aid workers, posed by explosive hazards. Progress in this important endeavour will undoubtedly impact favourably the ongoing peace and security efforts in Somalia.

Thank you Mr. President.