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REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE
The Cartagena Summit
of the
II Review Conference on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on
their destruction

Cartagena, 3 December 2009

H.E. Ambassador Susan Eckey
President of the II Review Conference

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to address the High Level Segment of the II Review Conference on the Convention on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to join previous speakers in expressing my gratitude to the Government of Colombia for hosting this important Conference and for excellent and inspiring conditions put at our disposal.

I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Susan Eckey upon her unanimous election to chair this Summit. I wish to assure you of my delegation full support and collaboration for the successful discharge of your noble task.

I also wish to commend your predecessor, His Excellency Ambassador Jürg Streuli, for the dynamic manner in which he presided over the 9th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention and for laying the foundations for the successful outcome of this Conference.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference is taking place in the very year in which we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.

Indeed, more than a decade has elapsed. When we look back we are left with the sense of gratitude for the achievements we have managed to score in such short period of time, thanks to the visionary approach in crafting the Convention equipped with the effective monitoring and implementation mechanism.

The Convention calls for an increased support by all of us. We cannot afford to let it frail. Otherwise, the consequences would be dramatic for the humanity. It is one of the most important pillars that support the existing humanitarian laws.

We are gathered here in Cartagena das Indias, this beauty and historic city of Colombia to take stock of the past, draw experiences and define the right course of action that will reinvigorate the Convention and lead us through the path of success in the fulfilment of its noble goal – to make the world a better and safer place to live.

The Cartagena Summit is a cornerstone event in the sense that will guide us into the next five

years with an unwavering determination to once and for all rid the world of the threat of anti-personnel mines.

For that end we shall endeavour to evaluate the operation and status of the Convention, renew our commitment by sending a clear political message against the production and stockpiling of anti-personnel landmines. We shall give appropriate priority action to victims and survivors assistance.

Equally, this II Review Conference should not lose sight of the importance of the promotion of the national responsibility and appropriation as well as the international cooperation.

I cannot agree more with His Highness the Prince Mirad of Jordan when he wisely pointed out the five fundamental components that make up national ownership in the process of clearing anti-personnel mines and other explosive hazards. He rightly added that national ownership in its own does not guarantee successful outcome without a matching international cooperation and assistance by those states in a position to do so.

The I Review Conference held in Nairobi Kenya was instrumental in enhancing effectiveness of the convention when it emphasized the need for expeditious universalization and genuine cooperation among States. The implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action brought about considerable progress in the attainment of goals set forth in the Convention.

Let us not forget the underlining principles for the implementation of the Convention, we launched in Maputo during the First Meeting of the State Parties.

In Maputo, for the successful implementation of the Convention we considered the following principles as central: Continuity, coherence, flexibility, partnership, openness, transparency and a Clear Sense of Purpose. These principles are still valid today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last October Mozambique held its IV general elections which were successfully conducted and were considered free and fair.

The transparent and orderly manner in which they were organized contributes to the strengthening of continued stability in the country, an essential condition to carry out the development programme of the Government.

We have been successfully implementing the Mine Action Plan which has been integrated in the Five Year National Program for the Reduction of Poverty.

As a result, we managed to declare 4 previously contaminated Provinces as free of anti-personnel landmines, thus allowing the free movement of people and goods and the release of land for crop production. However, landmines persist as a pressing challenge to our development. The current situation indicates that over 8 million m² of land still remain affected. In context, we had to request an extension under article 5 to expand the deadline for the implementation of the

demining program up to 2014.

Once again, we wish to reiterate our recognition to the international community which responded to national efforts with its generous contribution.

We are confident that this cooperation will continue to evolve in order to ensure that Mozambique reaches its targets in the context of the implementation of National Action Plan by 2014.

In spite of the negative impact of international crisis and the scarcity of domestic resources, the Government decided to increase the allocation of financial resources for the national program of humanitarian demining.

We are convinced that the international partners will continue to join the efforts of the Government in covering the last leg of our journey towards a Mozambique free from landmines.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the African region a significant progress has been made since the entry into force of the Convention within the framework of the African Union Plan of Action on Landmines. We note with satisfaction that the region has managed to destroy more than 800 millions of mines.

The continent is committed to promote and support in a non discriminatory manner the landmine victims, their families and communities.

The Cartagena summit generated in Africa and all over the world a considerable amount of expectations that cannot be deceived.

Our challenge ahead is to strive to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to avoid that landmines create new victims.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish to reiterate Mozambique's commitment to continue engaged in the international efforts to rid the world of the deadly landmines.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!

Cartagena, 3 December 2009