



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E.MR.HOPELONG U IPINGE,  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA**

**AT**

**THE SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION.**

**CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA**

**04 DECEMBER 2009**

Your Royal Highness  
Your Excellency Vice President of the Republic of Colombia  
Madam President,  
Your Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is distinct honor to express our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Colombia for kind hospitality, and warm welcome extended to us since our arrival at this beautiful resort city of Cartagena de Indias. We also commend the extraordinary efforts of the Government for hosting this Second Review Conference and for excellent work arrangements.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, Madam President on your unanimous election as President of the second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti—personnel mines and their destruction. My delegation has every confidence that under your skillful guidance, the deliberations of this Conference will be brought to a successful conclusion. I pledge my delegation's support and cooperation. Let me also take this opportunity to extend our support to the rest of the members of the Bureau and register our thanks and appreciation to the outgoing President.

My delegation also wishes to extend appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent organization of this Conference and for the cooperation accorded to States Parties during this year.

Madam President,

The purpose of this Conference is to review the work of the Convention and the progress that States Parties to the Convention have made since the last Conference and map out concrete strategies and action plans that will lead to the total eradication of landmines in our midst.

You will all agree with me that achieving global disarmament is a formidable challenge. The availability and spread of anti-personnel mines, small arms and light weapons and cluster munitions, is one of the main factors fueling conflicts in the world today. We all, therefore, have a responsibility to raise awareness on the danger that these weapons represent, so as to facilitate the full

implementation of the Convention. Land-Mines are easy to produce and stockpile.

However, they are a great danger to humanity, especially in areas of conflict. The existence of old anti-personnel mines therefore continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Thus, an anti-personnel mines-free world will only be achieved if all countries join the Convention and implement it fully. It is also important to underline that in this challenging task of achieving global disarmament, we need to form partnerships for information exchange.

Madam President,

This Convention addresses an acute crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. It is in this connection that States Parties to the Convention have made progress since the First Review Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004. Significant achievements have been made, particularly on the universalization of the Convention. Progress is measurable through the reduction of production, use, and trade of antipersonnel landmines worldwide and more stockpiles have also been destroyed.

In this connection, I would like to inform the Conference that, my country has destroyed 31 456 anti-personnel landmines in 1998 before the Convention entered into force. Only a minimum of 1734 pieces are retained for research and training purposes as provided for in Article 3 of the Convention.

Namibia has always fulfilled its obligations under article 7 of the Convention by submitting its annual transparency reports. I would like to announce that the destruction of anti-personnel mines in known mined areas has been completed and Namibia is fully compliance with Article 5 of the Convention.

The National implementation measures in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention are being implemented under the existing Namibian legal instrument, Explosive Act 26 of 1956 as amended, which is sufficient for such purpose.

Madam President,

Indeed, Namibia was a war zone for many years during the occupation by the apartheid regime of South Africa. Against this background, we have been engaged in a massive education campaign information sharing programs to educate our people on the dangers posed by landmines. We have also successfully carried out de-mining in the known mined areas.

The Government of Namibia provides assistance to landmines victims and survivors who are totally disabled, by giving them monthly social grants. We have centers for landmine survivors which also cater for all other disabled persons where they receive various training skills for their future employment.

My delegation would therefore like to strongly urge countries that continue to produce, acquire, use, stockpile or transfer anti-personnel mines to put to these activities to an early end and join the rest of the international community in eradicating these deadly weapons which maim and claim thousands of innocent lives.

Madam President,

We also hope that with the technical assistance programs in place, as well as the transfer of knowledge and skills to deal with the combating and eradication of landmines, the universality of the Convention and its effective implementation will be further enhanced. My delegation therefore encourages the Secretariat to provide all necessary support in order for States Parties to implement the Convention.

In conclusion, allow me on behalf of my delegation, to re-affirm Namibia's commitment to the universality of the Convention and to its full implementation by adopting and signing the Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action.

Once again, my delegation wishes to express its confidence in the success of this Conference under your able leadership.

I thank you