



**First Preparatory Meeting
Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on
the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

Intervention de la délégation suisse

Genève, 6 décembre 2013

Mr. President-Designate,

Let me join others in expressing my most sincere condolences to the Government and the people of South Africa on the death of Nelson Mandela. His passing marks a tremendous loss not only for South Africa but for the entire world community. We are all mourning the loss of a great man and of an exemplary historical figure.

General remarks

Mr. President-Designate,

I would like to start my remarks by stressing how pleased I am to see Mozambique assume the presidency of the 3rd Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention. I am convinced that under your able leadership the 3rd Review Conference will be a resounding success. We are looking forward to working closely with Mozambique and with all other stakeholders in this direction.

The success of the Third Review Conference will depend in large part on a thorough preparatory process. It is crucial that such a process be fully transparent and that it provides for the participation of all stakeholders, be it States parties, international organisations and civil society. The implementation support unit has for its part a key role to play in supporting this process.

In this context, I welcome this initial and very timely opportunity to exchange views on the upcoming Review Conference among all stakeholders. I would like to stress that I concur with the ambitions you have outlined in the documents you circulated. Switzerland fully agrees that we must set the bar high and have an ambitious agenda for Maputo.

Maputo should set a clear path so that we move decisively towards our goal of a mine free world. Much has already been achieved in meeting the objectives set by the convention. But a lot still remains to be done, in particular with regard to clearance and victim assistance. Furthermore, the issue of compliance will certainly be front and centre as we move into this new stage. Moving

resolutely towards completing the goals we have set for ourselves will certainly require renewed political commitment and resource mobilisation. It will also require a strong follow-up and implementation process, which will ensure accountability of States parties in regard to the treaty obligations.

Review document

A thorough review, broadly shared by all States Parties and other stakeholders, will be key in providing the Review Conference with the necessary foundation and consensus on which to build our future endeavours. It should constitute the first step in our preparatory process. Going initially through such a review process corresponds to the mandate set forth by article 12 of the Convention on the purpose and proceeding of Review Conferences.

Once we have clearly mapped out the remaining challenges, we will fully be in a position to take sound decisions with regard to the way we report on achievements and challenges and with regard to the implementation architecture.

In that context, we welcome the document you have circulated on this issue. As the review document will represent the cornerstone on which further elements will be built, we would urge that we move forward on it as swiftly as possible

Maputo Action Plan

I would like to thank you for the considerations you have provided to us with regard to the Maputo Action Plan.

As I have already mentioned, we should set an ambitious agenda for Maputo and this should certainly be reflected in the Action Plan.

We welcome the approach that you have stressed in the document you circulated, that is of a lean, operational and communicable Maputo-Action Plan.

The Maputo Action Plan should be based on a clear and shared analysis of the achievements and of the remaining challenges. This would lay the basis for informed decisions about our common future objectives.

Whereas we see value in a lean and actionable action plan, we would like to stress that this should not lead us to unduly restrict its scope. The main driver should be to articulate a clear vision that can then be operationalized.

We see also value in linking measurable indicators to some of the objectives set in the action plan. This applies for instance to clearance or stockpile destruction. It will be important that it takes into account that some of the objectives to be set are inherently political or normative in nature that are by definition not easily measurable. This applies for instance to compliance or to victim assistance. It also applies to the promotion of the norm set by the Convention or its universalisation, elements that will remain key in order to meet its central objectives.

Finally on this document, I would like to recall that the Convention contains a number of legal obligations for States parties, and that they should be appropriately reflected in the action plan.

Post-Third Review Conference programme of meetings

Concerning the issue of the post-3rd Review Conference programme of meetings, this issue is of importance and we will have to address it thoroughly. As shown by many comments from the floor today, it seems that at this stage it is too early to reach conclusions on this issue. Your paper has served the purpose of stirring the debate and to remind us that meetings are a means to an end, and not an end in themselves.

The programme of meetings should constitute a response to the outstanding challenges we identify to reach a mine free world and implement the Convention, as well as to the action plan we will adopt as a road map. On the basis of these different elements, we will be in a position to take an informed decision in Maputo about the programme of meetings to be established after the 3rd Review Conference.

If we set for ourselves an ambitious agenda in Maputo, it is clear that we will have to establish a strong implementation mechanism. We will have to carefully look at what the implications are with regards means in terms of political and operational follow-up to ensure that objectives are met. We will have to look at the various possible options to carry out this agenda.

Extensions requests and the fulfilment of clearance obligations will continue to require close attention and follow-up for quite a few years. Compliance will remain a question of importance, if not a growing importance. In this area, the Review Conference provides us with an opportunity to assess the process we follow to address this key issue for the credibility of the convention and whether new tools should be developed. Victim assistance will also have to continue be addressed. In view of the key role that assistance and cooperation play in addressing all such issues, it will remain important that affected States, donor states, international and non-governmental organisations, as well as operators will continue to share a common platform on a regular basis.

In reviewing the programme of meetings, it will also be important to recall that one of the strengths of this convention is that a set of common standards has been established to mainstream operational issues and to ensure that best practices are implemented. By enabling synergies and links between operational and political discussions, meetings play a key role in this respect.

We should not only ensure that our programme of meetings is tailored to outstanding challenges and the goal that we set for ourselves, but also look at improved efficiency. Synergies with other instruments can certainly be considered, without compromising the existing differences in membership and legal obligations. We would see merit in holding CCM and APMBC meetings back to back, when and where applicable.

Mr. President-Designate,

We hope that these initial considerations will be of use to you in your important endeavour. We are looking forward to supporting you and your team and would like to thank you once again for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on the preparation to Maputo.