



Maputo Review Conference on a Mine-Free World

Statement by Ireland

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Mister President,

Ireland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of Mozambique for hosting this successful Review Conference, for welcoming us to Maputo again, and for the effective and inclusive management of this process both here in Maputo and with Ambassador Commisario in Geneva. Earlier this month, Ireland had the pleasure of receiving a visit from President Guebuza and we look forward to further deepening our ties with this wonderful country.

The significance of returning to Maputo and the achievements made in the intervening period, acts as a positive reminder to us all. Your leadership, commitment and achievements serve as our inspiration, encouraging us to build on your achievements and strive for further results beyond Mozambique.

Mr. President, with almost 30 State Parties having completed implementation of their obligations to clear mined areas, we have seen the results which can be achieved; However, we are deeply concerned by reports of use of anti-personnel mines by States who are party to this Convention. We gathered here to renew the initial momentum of 1999 and to reaffirm our commitment to completing the job of ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and achieving a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Ireland welcomes the progress made on universalisation, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, transparency and implementation support since we gathered in Cartagena for the second Review Conference. We welcome the Maputo + 15 Declaration and Action Plan and strongly support its forward looking and operational focus in particular on **the machinery** needed to ensure we can most effectively address the key aims of and challenges faced by, the Convention.

We recognise that complying and completing requires commitment, collaboration and cooperation and we are confident that the actions and commitments outlined in the Maputo + 15 Declaration and Action Plan will bring us closer to our shared goal.

- This Convention has ambition written into its very core. That ambition is a world free of anti personnel landmines. Ireland warmly welcomes the shared aspiration of completion of time bound obligations in the Maputo + 15 Declaration. We remain firm in our belief that the vision of a world free of anti-personnel landmines is possible and it is within reach. We view the 2025 timeline as an ambitious and important target to motivate us to achieve this objective.
- **Universalisation** remains a significant challenge; Ireland's welcomes the practical actions set out in the Action Plan to encourage and promote non States Parties formal adherence and observance of the Conventions norms and to promote further ratifications. We wish acknowledge the successful and tireless work of Special Envoys, HRH Princess Astrid and HRH Prince Mired.

- We support efforts to increase **transparency and communication** between States Parties in relation to stockpile destruction and mine clearance, both key obligations of the Convention.
- Ireland recognises the importance of ensuring **compliance** and in this regard welcomes the decision to establish a **Committee on Cooperative Compliance**.
- A major achievement of this Convention, remains its commitment to victims and survivors. As we strive to fulfil this commitment, Ireland welcomes the emphasis placed on ensuring **holistic, time bound and measurable objectives for victim's assistance** going forward.
- Ireland wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to the extraordinary collaboration which exists between the Convention and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and other civil society organisations.

One of the largest impediments to development and rehabilitation in post-conflict societies and to human security, is the presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war. Clearing landmines not only prevents further human casualties but also, frees whole communities from fear, paving the way for reconstruction, development, agricultural production and business opportunities. In recognition of this, Ireland includes mine action activities in our ongoing development partnerships and our funding in the period since 2006 has amounted to over €28 million including funding for work in mine affected countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Somaliland and here, in Mozambique.

Mr. President, this third Review Conference, under the leadership of Mozambique comes at an important time in the life of this Convention, provided us the opportunity to renew our commitment and show our determination to end the abhorrent scourge of anti-personnel landmines once and for all. It has provided us the opportunity to assess how much we have

achieved together but also how we adapt to the remaining challenges which must be tackled with the same determination that brought us to this point. We have come too far not to finish this journey

Ireland is pleased that the opportunity has been seized and that the Maputo + 15 Declaration and Action Plan, clearly demonstrate our unwavering and unqualified collective commitment to this goal and Ireland looks forward to playing its part in the implementation of the Action Plan over the coming years.

Thank you, Mr. President.