

ADVISORY BOARD ON HUMAN SECURITY
AND
UN HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND
Statement by
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Mr. President,
Excellences,
Representatives of the States Parties, and
International Organizations

Since this is the first time I take the floor at the Review Conference, allow me to first congratulate you for the impeccable organization of this important event in the life of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. I would also like to congratulate Mozambique for becoming the chosen venue for the Third Review Conference. This was definitely the right decision, since Mozambique is living proof that the Convention really works. There can be no doubt that Mozambique is a huge success story in terms of mine action. It is an example of how a country with limited resources and an enormous land mine problem can find solutions to overcome them by applying the right national approach aided by proper international assistance. I hope that the experience of Mozambique will encourage other countries and regions to take advantage of this lesson.

I am taking part in the Review Conference on behalf of the UN Advisory Board on Human Security and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. My wish is to alert the States Parties to the advantages of using the human security approach in tackling complex problems, such as the one faced by the States Parties of the AP Mine Ban Convention, or seen in worldwide mine action in general. I believe that this is the right time to do so, since we need to talk about the better use of existing resources in order to meet the goal of a mine-free world in the not so distant future.

It is undeniable that the human security approach as defined in the Outcome Document of the UN Summit in 2005 and in the UNGA Resolution 66/290, and as recently evaluated by the Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/685), has been closely connected to the AP Mine Ban Convention from the very beginning of its existence. For instance, one of the first tasks of the Human Security Network, which is made up of a group of a dozen countries from all regions of the world and at very different levels of development, was to ensure enough signatures and ratifications for the Convention to become operational only two years after the signing ceremony in Ottawa seventeen years ago.

Human security, viewed as a specific approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing the widespread and interrelated challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of people, calls for responses that are people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented. It is based on national ownership and does not entail any threat of unwanted interference in the domestic affairs of a given country. To effectively respond to today's challenges, integrated responses at the national, regional and international level, and especially by the UN system, are required.

The human security approach can help us to better analyze the root causes of

problematic issues, examine the impact of these issues on the daily lives of people, and advance conditions that work to promote early prevention. It can also be used to build resilience that can reduce the likelihoods of crises, or mitigate their impact should they occur, which ensures people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses.

By focusing on people and the interrelated challenges they face, the human security approach can combine the technical and financial resources needed to effectively and efficiently respond to complex problems we face in different societies and in different situations. Thus the human security approach can be instrumental in enhancing the operational effectiveness of international assistance efforts, known in the UN by the name “Delivering as One”.

The human security approach can combine the technical and financial resources needed to effectively and efficiently respond to complex challenges, while also reducing the cost of such responses.

Since 1999, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security has supported some 214 projects in 88 countries with an amount of over 417 million USD. Through this, it has played an important role in implementing the human security approach in real life and in concrete scenarios. By insisting on a close cooperation of several UN agencies, and by demanding to combine their expertise to tackle interrelated threats to people, the projects where this approach had been used performed better than regular UN projects. These projects were especially successful in responding to multidimensional security issues, due to their broad focus and the ability to go beyond the mandates of individual agencies. The added value of the human security approach has been independently confirmed by the recent external assessment of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security projects carried out in post-conflict areas and in the fragile settings of poverty-ridden communities.

In many cases, the projects implementing the AP Mine Ban Convention, especially those addressing mine clearance and victim assistance, at least implicitly also apply the human security approach. This approach will be even more important in years to come, since it can ensure the best possible use of available resources in pursuit of the goal of living in a mine-free world in the near future.

Inspired by the rich experience of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security as well as by the statements of many delegations at the Third Review Conference I would like to recommend that States Parties encourage the joint action of different UN and other international agencies. My suggestion would be that in Chapter V. of the Maputo Action Plan, States Parties add a paragraph encouraging the implementation of the human security approach as expressed in the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/290 and in the Report of the Secretary-General A/68/685. Doing so would combine the technical and financial resources needed to effectively and efficiently respond to the interrelated and interdependent challenges of the Convention.