



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT

BY

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MOZAMBIQUE**

AT

**DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE
(FIRST COMMITTEE)**

76th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

THE AGENDA ITEM 101: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 13th, 2021

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Mozambique delegation, I wish to warmly congratulate you on the assumption of your duties as the President of the First Committee of the 76th Session of the General Assembly. I extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. We assure you of the full cooperation of Mozambique for the success of the deliberations of the Committee under your leadership.

Mozambique aligns herself with the statement made by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Ghana on behalf of the African Group on conventional weapons, and wishes to add our national perspective on the topic.

In this connection, we commend the Secretary-General for the report submitted under this important agenda *item* 101. We take note of the recommendations contained therein which will contribute to the improvement of the global peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

Mozambique recognizes and supports the importance of the Global Disarmament Common Agenda, which is a cornerstone for the promotion of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development as the better platform to achieve our common 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The position of Mozambique emanates from her Constitution which defends, inter alia, the principle of peaceful settlement of conflicts and that of general and complete disarmament of all states and of the transformation of the Indian Ocean as a peaceful and denuclearized zone.

At the national and regional levels, Mozambique integrates the UN Program of Action for the Prevention, Combat and Eradication of Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA). The actions on these matters are operationalized through the Governmental Decree Nr. 8/2007, on Arms and Ammunition Regulation under the coordination of the Inter-Ministerial Commission to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, known as COPRECAL.

As part of the strategy to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, the Government of Mozambique regularly conducts public

awareness campaigns, seminars and workshops to share and socialize the Government measures and strategies on this matter.

Mr. Chairperson,

Mozambique aligns herself with the multilateral approach on the integrated actions against transnational organized crime, in strengthening regional cooperation, and exchange of information for better prevention and combating the trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

In this context, Mozambique is a member of the SADC Regional Cooperation of Police Chiefs of Southern Africa (SARPPCO) and the INTERPOL, the regional and continental mechanism adopted to strengthen and coordinate all actions related to this matter.

Controlling the transfer of arms is one of the Government's high priorities. Thus, Mozambique supports initiatives aimed at promoting transparency in the transfer and production process of small arms and light weapons.

Mr Chairperson,

The Republic of Mozambique is a party to the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), following its ratification, in 2018, through Resolution Nr.11/2018 of the Assembly of the Republic and its integration into the Mozambican legal framework, thus strengthening the internal arms trade control mechanisms. Through this process, Mozambique became the 100th country to deposit its instrument of ratification of the Treaty at the UN Headquarters. By this action, we have contributed to the universalization of this legal instrument and to the enhancing of international peace and security efforts.

We welcome the ATT Secretariat's approval of the USD 100,000 Small Arms and Explosives Management System Project. This project will contribute to the operationalization of four modules of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) Central Database, including the Management of the Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives System held by civilians. The Project is being implemented from October 2020, under the management support of the UNDP.

At the regional level, during the 41st Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, held under Mozambique's Presidency of the SADC, the Government of Mozambique signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms,

Ammunition and Other Related Material. The Protocol has entered into force on 8th November 2004.

The Amendment to the SADC Protocol aims to extend the scope of the Protocol to include conventional weapons; to harmonize the instrument with International Conventions and other Legal Instruments dealing with firearms, ammunition and other related material; to incorporate contemporary threats of proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and best practices and standards in this field.

We are convinced that, despite the international measures on controlling the conventional weapons, based on the rise of terrorism and organized crime in Africa, Southern African Region, particularly in Mozambique, there's a need to build an articulated common strategy and joint inspections among the regional security forces to face this dangerous challenge. This approach aims to contribute to the sharing of efforts for the promotion of peace and security, in the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a result of the long process of the Demining Program, Mozambique has achieved significant results that led the country to be formally declared as free of antipersonnel mines in 2015, after removing and destroying an estimated number of 10,000 landmines and their remnants.

After the success on the demining process, the Government recognizes the responsibility for assisting mine survivors in an inclusive task as it benefits people who were victims of mines. This was effected on the basis of action plans that are regularly approved to guide social assistance, medical care, education and professional training, psychological support, social and economic inclusion to the mines victims.

In light of the principle of the inclusion of "leaving no one behind", Mozambique is committed to strengthen its efforts to improve actions aimed at improving living conditions especially to mine survivors and persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mr Chairperson,

To conclude, Mozambique reiterates its commitment to all international measures aimed at reinforcing the global arms control frameworks in particular the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We appeal to all member states to strictly observe the tenets of general and complete disarmament for a peaceful and prosperous world we want.

I Thank You!