



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

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

73RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

THE AGENDA ITEM 101: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 24th, 2018

Chairperson

Since is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to warmly congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the work of this Committee.

I am confident that under your leadership our deliberations will produce successful outcomes. To this end, you can count on the full support of the Mozambican delegation.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement, and of Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

We equally commend the Secretary-General for the reports submitted under this important agenda item, and we take note of the recommendations.

Chairperson

Mozambique attaches great importance to conventional weapons control as a fundamental pillar in the framework of the realization of the disarmament agenda in order to secure and sustain international peace and security. This principle is firmly enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique.

As part of its commitment to general and universal disarmament Mozambique is, since 2001, implementing the United Nations Program of Action for the Prevention, Combating and Eradication of Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.

As such the Government of Mozambique has adopted a number a legal instruments and law enforcement measures to better address the challenges arising from the proliferation of firearms, particularly improving the management of their use and possession by civilians, record keeping, marking, tracing, import, export and transit, as well as trade, embargoes of arms and penalties.

In this context, the Government of Mozambique also conducts regular public awareness campaigns, seminars and workshops to explain and promote public debate with all relevant stakeholders.

Chairperson

We also recognize that acting in isolation and considering only the national dimension, our efforts will be diluted and we will fail to deal effectively with the menace posed illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its facets. In an interconnected world this responsibility requires action and partnerships by all States, regional and international organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

In this sense, to further strengthen our national efforts to curb illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, Mozambique is part of the Southern African Police Chiefs' Regional Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO), which coordinates all actions related to the prevention and combat of trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) subregion.

Mozambique is also a State Party of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) which plays a crucial role in preventing and combating transnational organized crime, especially in strengthening regional and global cooperation, collaboration and information exchange in the fields of prevention and combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

Chairperson

The Mozambican Government's Five-Year Plan outlines the promotion of peace and international security, as well as the contribution to multilateral debates and consensus building on these matters as priority actions.

As it is widely known, in September 2015, His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, formally declared Mozambique as a State free of antipersonnel mines, thus showing in a practical way our commitment to not use, stockpile, produce and transfer anti-personnel mines and to their destruction as envisaged by the OTAWA Convention.

Mozambique continues to solidify its commitment to the Convention focusing its actions in the assistance to the victims of landmines at the current stage.

At the same time, as a State Party, Mozambique is also implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In this regard, a project is currently underway to ensure that all the surplus of projectiles and other munitions that are obsolete and stockpiled in inadequate depots are disposed of in order to avoid uncontrolled or accidental explosions which would pose a risk to populations and infrastructure.

Currently internal procedures are ongoing aiming at the deposit of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which was ratified by Mozambique in the near future. It is our firm conviction that this important step will contribute to the universalization of the ATT, complementing the ongoing actions under the other international instruments.

Mr. Chairperson

As part of our contribution towards conventional arms control, the Republic of Mozambique in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and International Network on Explosive Weapons Humanity & Inclusion hosted the Africa Regional Meeting on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, which took place in Maputo in November last year.

The Meeting offered a unique platform for the representatives of 19 African participating countries, some United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, and some survivors of explosive weapons in Africa to strengthen their engagement on this pressing humanitarian subject and political process.

The Maputo meeting managed to constitute a committed group of African states working to develop policies and analysis that can broaden international consensus on this important subject.

We hope that the highly positive outcome of the Maputo Regional Conference and those from other planned similar regional gatherings on the issue, will be encapsulated into the envisaged draft political declaration to further strengthen the disarmament architecture.

Let me conclude, by reiterating the full commitment of Mozambique to the advancement the disarmament agenda.

I thank you for your attention