



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

Statement

By

Her Excellency Berta Celestino Cossa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the OPCW and Head of the Delegation of Mozambique to the 29th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction

The Hague, 25 - 29 November 2024

Agenda Item 8: General debate.

His Excellency

Mr. Almir Šahović

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OPCW
Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Conference of States Parties;**

His Excellency

**Ambassador Fernando Arias,
Director-General of the OPCW;**

Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates.

At the outset allow me to join my voice with the previous speakers in congratulating H.E. Mr. Almir Šahović, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OPCW on your election as Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Conference of the State Parties. I am confident that under your chairmanship this session will be productive and successful. You can count on my Delegation's full support.

I would like to extend our appreciation to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OPCW for the able manner in which he conducted the work of 28th Session of the Conference.

We also wish to congratulate the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias for his leadership and commitment to the implementation of the Organization's objectives. We extend also our recognition to H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono for her commitment and dedication to the causes of OPCW.

Mozambique aligns itself with the Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Francis D. Kotia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the OPCW on behalf of the African Group, as well as the Statement delivered by H.E. Mirjam Blaak Sow, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the OPCW, Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) + China.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.**

The Republic of Mozambique has joined the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, in June 2000.

Subsequently, in 2006, pursuant to number 4 of Article VII of the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, by resolution of the Council of Ministers, has established the National Authority for the implementation of the Convention and appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as the entity for coordination of the actions for the implementation of the Convention.

The National Authority is part of a Technical Group composed of the following institutions:

Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs;

Ministry of Economy and Finance (Tax Authority of Mozambique);

Ministry of National Defence;

Ministry of the Interior;

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security;

Ministry of Health;

Ministry of Industry and Trade;

Ministry of Environment, Land and Rural Development;

Public Prosecutor's Office/Attorney General's Office

Eduardo Mondlane University.

With its accession to the Convention, Mozambique is obliged to implement it and to comply with all obligations arising from its application. As part of efforts to create mechanisms for such implementation and in the context of the "Mentorship Partnership Program (MPP)", Mozambique identified the National Authority of Brazil to assist in defining steps leading to the full application of the Convention.

The Mentorship Partnership Program involves training of National Authorities on the implementation of the Convention, support in the creation of the relevant legislation, identification of industries that will be involved in the implementation of the Convention, identification of training and dissemination programs with civil society on the importance and benefits of the application of the Convention.

It is in this context that the National Authority of Mozambique, supported by the Department for Assistance and Protection of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, has joined the Monitoring Program for the Building of the Mozambican National Authority with the support of Brazil.

The Mentorship Program Mozambique – Brazil comprised two phases: the first between 21 and 25 August 2023, in Maputo, with the presence of experts from the National Authority of Brazil, and the second, from 23 to 27 October 2023, in Brasilia, with the visit of the National Authority of Mozambique.

The program had the following objectives:

- To pass on the experience of Brazil in matters related to the application of the Convention;
- To conduct a survey and analysis of Mozambican national legislation related to the Convention;
- Visit institutions that could potentially assist in the implementation of the Convention;
- Advice for the improvements for the effective functioning of the Mozambican National Authority;
- Identification of concrete actions to be followed until the effective implementation of the Convention.

Mozambique's participation in the Mentorship Program was a great opportunity for the country to visualize through the Brazilian experience the path it must take to implement the Convention, to the extent that it has been possible to identify national legislation that will enable the country in implementing all provisions of the Convention.

At the present, the National Authority of Mozambique is preparing legislation for the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, which aims to enshrine the national measures necessary to comply with the obligations arising from the Convention to be submitted during the next Political legislature starting in January 2025.

We would like to underline that with the experience gained in the Mentorship Program, Mozambique has been transmitting its experience to other National Authorities which are still facing difficulties in implementation of the Convention. We highlight two occasions: the Workshop of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), held in February 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal and the 22nd African Regional Meeting of National Authorities of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in June 2024, in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The delegation of Mozambique would like to take this instance to express its gratitude to the OPCW Secretariat for setting up the Mentorship Partnership Program. We consider this valuable program very useful, particularly for countries like ours and should be conducted with more frequency. We extend also our gratitude to Brazil for having shown availability to be our mentor. We attach great importance to the collaboration and partnership with Brazil in this area.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.**

We take this opportunity to emphasize the necessity of strengthening regional and international cooperation in improving the national capabilities, adopting appropriate legislation, national control structures and assistance in chemical weapons or toxic substances emergencies.

We believe that it is of the highest importance to join efforts to keep our world free from chemical weapons and contribute to international synergies aimed at preventing the resurgence of these weapons.

Mozambique also advocates the optimization of regional cooperation mechanisms, the promotion of training and education programs to raise awareness for the future generations.

We welcome the establishment of the ChemTech Centre that is providing structure and equipment for scientific development of technology and training activities. This will result in an increase of a critical mass with expertise capable of exercising global influence for peaceful use of chemistry.

In conclusion Mr. Chair, Mozambique reiterates its commitment to the objectives of the Organization for the full implementation of the Convention.

I Thank You Very Much for Your Kind Attention!

Haia, November 2024