Republic of Mozambique

Statement

By

H.E. Mr. António Gumende,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Mozambique to
the United Nations

At

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(First Committee)
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On

The Agenda Item 101: Conventional Weapons

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Mr. Chairperson,

Being this, the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the work of this Committee. I believe that under your wise leadership and guidance our deliberations will culminate with successful outcomes. To this end, the Mozambican delegation assures you the full support and cooperation during the discharge of your noble tasks.

Mozambique wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Zambia on behalf of the African Group, by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and with the joint statement on prohibiting financing of prohibited weapons delivered by Ireland.

I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports under this important agenda item, through which we take note of the recommendations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Conventional weapons represent one of the most pressing security threats causing more destruction and human displacement than any other kind of weapon, and it poses a major hindrance for the efforts of the international community to achieve a strong commitment to strengthen the global and connected actions framework to control its use and circulation to eradicate its humanitarian impact.

Accordingly, Mozambique acknowledges the importance of the global disarmament agenda, which is fundamental to promoting peace and security worldwide, thereby contributing to the pursuit of sustainable development goals and the promotion of human rights.

As enshrined in its Constitution, Mozambique advocates general and universal disarmament in light of the principle of peaceful resolution of conflicts, preserving also the Indian Ocean as a peaceful and denuclearized zone.
In that sense, Mozambique is part of 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), which at the domestic level is centered on the remnants of small arms of the 16-year war of destabilization that ended with the Rome Peace Agreement in 1992, as well as the emerging threats posed by the proliferation of firearms resulting from international trafficking in this type of weapons.

Since December 2018, Mozambique is part of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as 100th country to deposit its instrument of ratification, contributing to its universalization.

The Government of Mozambique has also approved the Arms and Ammunition Regulation, focused on improving the management of civilian use and possession of small arms, as well as trade, arms embargoes and sanctions, among others.

In the context of regional efforts, Mozambique is part of the Southern African Heads of Police Regional Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) which aims to promote peace and security in the SADC region, by preventing and combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Mozambique stands by its commitment to the global efforts towards the promotion of a world free of land mines as a fundamental pillar in the framework of the realization of the global disarmament agenda. The demining process in the country has yielded positive results wherein the Landmine Victim Assistance is at the top of the Government’s priorities. Indeed, national legislation has been adapting a number of legal instruments to mitigate the suffering of victims including their dependents, an exercise in which support from bilateral and multilateral partners is critical.

As a contribution to the international efforts to eradicate the landmine scourge in the world, many Mozambican nationals are collaborating in demining programs in some affected member States by lending their skills and expertise.
To conclude, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to reiterate Mozambique's strong appeal to all Member States to embark on a total and comprehensive disarmament to promote a more peaceful and prosperous world which we all aspire.

I thank you for your attention!