



**ICBL remarks on the Maputo Action Plan
First Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference
6 December 2013**

Thank you Mr. President,

Let me start by sharing briefly the ICBL's vision and plans for the upcoming Review Conference and the period leading to this milestone event that you will preside over.

Inspired by Mozambique's example of how a heavily mine-affected country has effectively tackled its landmine contamination and is on track to complete its mine clearance in 2014, we see **completion** as the most appropriate theme for Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The mine ban community has been known for being bold and progressive. Back in 1996, it was this community that took up the so-called Ottawa Challenge and adopted the Mine Ban Treaty within a year. Today, the ICBL is calling on this same community, with all its maturity, strength and experience, to take up another challenge – the **Completion Challenge** – to ensure that the work started several years ago is actually completed as soon as possible, and no later than 10 years after the Third Review Conference. We strongly believe that with renewed determination, sufficient resources and the use of good practices, **all current States Parties can complete their major Mine Ban Treaty obligations within 10 years of the Third Review Conference.**

The Third Review Conference in Maputo should therefore be seen as the starting point of a **Countdown to Completion** of the Mine Ban Treaty's primary obligations and should be accompanied by a genuine recommitment of efforts and resources by the international community in order to meet this challenge. By the end of the 10-year Countdown to Completion we expect to also celebrate having no new landmine victims in States Parties.

Under the slogan "**Commit to Complete**" we are challenging all states to come to Maputo with a clear commitment **to complete their remaining major treaty obligations** (such as clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, or joining the treaty) **within a clearly defined, ambitious deadline**, and no later than 10 years after the Third Review Conference.

The Completion Challenge will require all States Parties with remaining major treaty obligations to assess how they can work better and harder in order to fulfill their obligations quicker. Indeed, our challenge will require a number of states to review their current practices to ensure they are working in the most efficient and effective manner and that the remaining tasks can be finished in the shortest possible timeframe. **It is therefore a challenge to States Parties to step up their efforts until the work is complete.**

Turning now to the **Maputo Action Plan** (MAP), we believe it should be focused on paving a "**RoadMAP towards completion**" of the treaty's major obligations, with a set of pragmatic, realistic and largely time-bound actions that states need to take in order to move decisively towards fulfilling their remaining obligations. The elements for consideration echo this goal, and should lead us to the development of a useful action plan. We believe the first and last paragraphs of the document nicely sum up its goal – they recognize that the text of the Mine Ban Treaty itself is the "primary source for directing States Parties' actions" but that the Action

Plan can be a useful complement to “facilitating full and timely compliance” through commitments “to which other stakeholders can hold States Parties accountable.” We would be pleased to work with you on defining action points that would best meet this description.

To avoid taking the floor on the political declaration, we would also like to add that the draft put forward by Mozambique fits well with the completion challenge, and we are happy for it to be used as the basis for further refinement.

We look forward to working very closely with you Mr. President and with all States and partners in the lead up to the Review Conference. Our global campaign network will spare no efforts and creativity to make the Third Review Conference a meaningful, inspiring and action-oriented event that will focus on finishing the job efficiently and effectively.

Thank you.