

**ICBL Statement on Final Convention Documents
Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty
26 June 2014**



Thank you Mr. President.

We would like to add our congratulations to Mozambique for their extraordinarily hard work on producing these documents. We believe all three documents give several strong messages: First, that we have more work to do over the coming years to maintain strict adherence to the norms and the requirements of the Mine Ban Treaty. Second, that partnership lies at the heart of the convention's success. And finally, that completion is in sight as long as we work harder and better over the coming years.

Mr. President, the ICBL is convinced that the inclusion of a decade-long completion challenge in the outcome documents can help drive forward the work of the treaty, which many in the ICBL feel has been lackluster in recent years. We would have liked to see the 2025 date included in the Maputo Action Plan, and we would have liked to see stronger language in the Political Declaration, but we hope all States Parties will accept the current language despite its shortcomings, and then – most importantly – show by their actions that they fully embrace the completion challenge.

Mr. President, we feel very strongly that including the 2025 date in the outcome documents shows to the world that we are serious about increasing our efforts. It shows our recognition that landmine contamination is a finite problem, and the job can be finished in a matter of years. A date is something we will remember, that we will take home from Maputo because it is concrete and meaningful. A date is something affected states should welcome, as they can use it to push donors and those approving national budgets to provide the support they need. And most importantly, a date shows that states are committed to working harder and better because they know that the real winners in this debate will be people that are still living with the daily risk of landmines. The sooner we finish the job, the sooner they can live in safety.

Mr. President, We have always been an ambitious community, setting the bar high and inspiring others in the disarmament world and beyond through our bold vision. Let's stay that way.