Statement
by
H.E. Mr. António Gumende
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations
At the First Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Thematic Debate on Convention Weapons

New York, 30th October 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, let me warmly congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to preside the 1st Committee. I am confident that under your leadership our deliberations will produce successful outcomes. I assure you the full support and cooperation of Mozambique in the discharge of your noble tasks.

In the interest of time, I am going to highlight some paragraphs of my written statement which will be available at the Quick First web page.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Mozambique continues to attach the utmost importance to the implementation of the *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (PoA), as a contribution to the global efforts to address the multifaceted impact posed by the illicit trade of these weapons to peace, security, stability and, ultimately, to development.

More than a decade after the adoption of the PoA, we witness considerable progresses in its implementation, particularly with the establishment, strengthening and enforcement of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent the illicit trade and illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons.
In addition, we also witness the development of national action plans, the establishment of national points of contact, the submission of voluntary national reports and the strengthening of regional cooperation, measures that consolidate our national endeavors in this domain.

We take the opportunity to commend the Report of the Secretary-General before us (document A/68/171), for the overview of the activities carried out from August 2012 to July 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

Mozambique in partnership with the UNDP and civil society organizations continues deeply involved in the establishment of a national Program to Mitigate the Risk and Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, in order to reduce the negative impact of crimes involving small arms.

In addition, Mozambique is also implementing the Arms, Ammunition and Explosives Control System Project with the purpose of establishing a modern database system to register and control the fire arms managed by government entities as well those at the hand of civilians. This is an important measure in the framework of our efforts to eradicate the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons.

Taking into consideration the complexity of the phenomenon of illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons, Mozambique has adopted a holistic approach that includes, inter alia:
✔ Civic education campaigns;
✔ Reinforce the close relationship between State authorities;
✔ Adoption of the handbook on procedural rules to support the victims of firearms under the nation’s efforts to address domestic violence against women and children.

The successful implementation of the aforementioned measures requires a set of conditions, including technical and financial resources. In this context, I would like to seize this opportunity to commend the United Nations and other cooperation partners for their continued commitment to the cause of the PoA and for the support they provide.

As part of our efforts to improve regional security, Mozambique established bilateral agreements with neighboring countries to address organized crime. One of these agreements was established in 1995, with South Africa to improve cooperation and mutual assistance to combat crime. As a result of its impact on non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and on crime prevention, this agreement was acclaimed as one of the 2013 best disarmament policies, and led the two countries to be awarded the Honorable-Mention 2013 by the World Future Policy at the 2013 Future Policy Award Ceremony held here in New York, on October 23, 2013.

Mr. Chairman,
We associate ourselves with the previous speakers in welcoming the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. Mozambique was one of the first countries to sign this Treaty, an expression of our full commitment to the disarmament agenda.

The adoption of the ATT represents a milestone of incommensurable value in our common efforts to regulate and set the highest possible common international standards for regulating international trade of conventional arms, as well as to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.

In addition to the contribution to complement the ongoing actions under the PoA framework, the ATT will certainly contribute to further strengthen the disarmament architecture. We also believe that the entry into force of the ATT will contribute significantly to reduce the potential for conflicts, particularly in Africa.

Mozambique is currently undertaking internal measures to ratify the ATT as soon as possible. In this connection, we would like to appeal to all member States that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratify this important instrument.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of our commitment to the disarmament agenda, Mozambique will host the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, from June 29th to July 4th 2014.
I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the invitation made by H. E. Armando Guebuza, President of Republic of Mozambique, on 23 September, during the General Debate of this session of General Assembly, to all member states, observers and international organizations, as well as civil society, to participate in this Conference.

This Conference will constitute an opportunity to evaluate the result of our common efforts to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. It is our expectation that the Maputo Review Conference will renew and reinforce the commitment of all stakeholders to the achievement of the noble goals of eliminating the landmines.

I thank you.