



Republic of Mozambique

**Statement by HE Ambass. Pedro Comissario, Permanent  
Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations Office and  
Other International Organization in Geneva, at the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Conference of ATT**

**Geneva, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Item 5 - General debate**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Klaus Korhonen, President of the  
Third Conference of ATT,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, we wish to join previous speakers in thanking you,  
Mr. President, for the able manner in which you have been steering  
the proceeds of this important Conference.

Allow us to also recognise the magnificent work done by your  
predecessor, HE Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe of Nigeria, to whom  
we pay deserved tribute.

We also join previous delegations in congratulating the officers that  
have just been elected.

A word of warm appreciation goes to Mr. Dumisani Dladla, Head of  
ATT Secretariat, and his dedicated team, for the magnificent  
preparation of this Conference.

Mr President,

We highly appreciate the inclusion on the agenda of this Conference of the High Level Segment, whose invitees have set tone, for the rest of the items.

Of no less importance, is the thematic discussion on the relationship between Sustainable Development Goals and the ATT, in the context of Goal 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, with focus on targets 16.4, due to take place tomorrow.

The ATT has opened a new chapter in the search of best strategies to address the proliferation of light and small arms, not to mention other conventional weapons.

It is Mozambique's sentiment that this Treaty contributes to the mitigation of the impact of armed conflicts and civil strives worldwide, especially in Africa and Middle East where such conflicts drive away millions of people from their homes and force them to seek refuge elsewhere.

It is also Mozambique's conviction that the ATT contributes a great deal to the upholding of the International Humanitarian Law and the International Human Rights Law, fundamental instruments for human security, that the Treaty also seeks to preserve.

While not an arms trade ban treaty, ATT is of utmost importance, in our view, for its compliance in good faith would, certainly, afford a reliable international control system, through the control list. The ATT stands a chance of playing a vital role in the avoidance of arms diversion, a source of supply for many rebel groups and drug trafficking syndicates.

At this junction, Mr. President, we would like to inform this august house that, on the universalization, the ratification of ATT by Mozambique is still undergoing due internal process.

Mozambique will be ready to fully comply with the letter and the spirit of ATT, as it seeks to implement it. Indeed, with its past of civil strife, which resulted in thousands of deaths and millions of

IDPs and refugees, the country could not, but commit to the ATT ideals.

We are aware of our outstanding assessed contributions. Mozambique will honor her obligations in this vain, in due course.

On a different note, Mr. President, allow us to advise this Conference that Mozambique, in light of her commitment to IHL and International Human Rights Law, has joined Handicap International, in the organization of a two days regional conference in Maputo, on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, from 29 to 30 November 2017.

The Conference will be part of an international endeavor of raising awareness of the humanitarian devastating effects of indiscriminate and disproportionate use of those weapons that will lead to an international political declaration to be hopefully submitted to the United Nations General Assembly next year.

We thought we should share this information with the delegates, given the existing synergies between the ATT and the EWIPA process, for both, first and foremost, have a humanitarian nature.

To conclude, Mr. President, we express our best wishes of fruitful deliberations to the 3CSP of ATT.

We thank you for your kind attention!