



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE REDUCTION AND PREVENTION OF ARMED VIOLENCE

Submission by the republic of Mozambique

A 2008 UN General Assembly Resolution 63/23 "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence", calls upon Member States to send their views on armed violence and development to the UN Secretary-General, so that he can compile a report to be published in November 2009. The deadline submission for the government is 31 May 2009.

The resolution is the latest stage in the process started by the 2006 Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, which recognizes the strong connection between preventing armed violence and promoting socio-economic and political development. To date, 103 States including Mozambique (2006) have signed the Geneva Declaration.

The Republic of Mozambique has emerged, in 1992, from a long armed conflict facing currently its post-conflict phase, focused on development, therefore, enormously interested in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

The goals and initiatives contained in the *Geneva Declaration* are therefore reflected in several instruments addressing the issue of armed violence, crime and development, which some how are in development in Mozambique.

As result of its history, Mozambique is affected by the existence of illicit small arms and light weapons which time to time contribute negatively for safety and security of the people. In fact, the availability and spread of small arms and light weapons is one of the main factors fuelling human rights abuses and under-development in Mozambique as direct consequence of the recent 16 years armed conflict.

Therefore, we recognize that there is a clear link between armed violence and sustainable development in our country.

As a matter of fact, armed assaults committed by criminals are against economic and social infrastructure, example of banks, stores, cars, residencies, and other properties. In this criminal acts, people are killed and injured, including fatal attacks against police officials on duty.

The armed violence can poses immediate negative consequences to the social and economic life by giving internal and external perception that the country is insecure to

freedom of movement of people and goods because of armed assaults:

We share the position that:

- The problem of armed violence needs to be measured so that action can be taken to reduce it;
- Programmes on armed violence prevention and reduction need to be integrated as key elements of national and local development strategy and planning;
- There are several international and regional treaties and agreements that can support armed violence prevention and reduction; and
- Sufficient aid must be committed, in addition to existing funding, in order to allow the Governments to act effectively on armed violence and development.

Mozambique share the view that the global action to prevent and reduce armed violence in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should consider the following:

- Reinforce Security Sector Reform and its democratization.
- Improving measurement of armed violence.
- Integrating armed violence prevention and reduction with development programming to address common root causes.
- Encourage joint government and civil society initiatives that address armed violence reduction/prevention and development,
- Compliance with international agreements aimed at or relevant for armed violence prevention and reduction.
- Ensuring adequate official development assistance directed to the combined programmes of armed violence reduction and development.
- Strengthen international and regional instruments on arms control in particular those addressing armed violence.

Achieving these strategic goals will require a more coherent approach to support Member States across the UN system, including existing coordination mechanisms such as the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), Inter-Agency Standing Committee, etc., but also engaging the major UN implementing agencies, and the International Finance Institutions.

National programming is central to achieve measurable reductions in armed violence by 2015. Strategies need to be preventive and dynamic, able to respond to changing situation. Strategies should address immediate risk factors in armed violence (such as arms availability), but should also address more structural factors to prevent violence and conflict from starting.

Some examples of Mozambique's commitment to prevent reduce and combat the armed violence promoting development

- Since 1995, soon after the General Peace Agreement, the Mozambican Government in strong collaboration with its civil society organizations is engaged in activities of arm collection and destructions,

- Mozambique is one of the first (2006) signatory of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development,
- Mozambique actively participated in the UN Conference to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspects held in 2001 which adopted the UNPoA.
- The Mozambican National Coordination Agency is known as COPRECAL (in Portuguese is Comissão Interministerial para Prevenção, Combate e Erradicação do Tráfico Ilícito de Armas Ligeiras e de Pequeno Porte) and in English is the Inter-Ministerial Commission to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons was established in 2005.

In collaboration with donors and other stakeholders, The Republic of Mozambique intends to strengthen action to prevent and reduce armed violence through a national action plan on small arms and light weapons.

In this regard, in 2008, the Government of Mozambique through COPRECAL supported a Civil Society Project entitled "Mozambique without Armed Violence".

The project, regarded as a practical measure to follow up the adoption of the African Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, signed on 31 October 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, has the following objectives:

- To promote civic education on arm control, community safety and security and development,
- To promote community voluntary collection and destruction of illicit weapons which fuel crimes in Mozambique, and
- Introduce the marking and registration process of weapons in use by the Authorities including those recovered from criminal and collected for destructions, to guarantee the arm control.

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