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**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**STATEMENT**

**FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DEBATE ON  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

***23 October 2025***  
***CR4***  
***UNHQ***

**Chair,**

1. Mozambique aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.
2. This year, Mozambique marks ten years since being declared landmine-free — a national achievement built upon global solidarity and a reminder of the enduring human cost of conventional weapons.
3. The scars of that period remain a daily lesson: that the consequences of landmines, cluster munitions, and explosive remnants of war persist long after peace is declared, hampering recovery and development.
4. The misuse and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, as well as the proliferation of low-cost, improvised, and commercially adapted weapon technologies, continue to threaten peace, security, and development in Africa.

5. Mozambique is deeply concerned that while the cost of production and trafficking of such weapons remains low, the cost of their destruction, recovery, and rehabilitation is prohibitively high — particularly for developing countries. Disarmament, therefore, is not only a security goal, it is a development imperative.

**Chair,**

6. Mozambique reaffirms its full commitment to the United Nations Programme of Action (UN PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

7. We strongly support the establishment of a UN Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries — a capacity-building mechanism the African Group has long championed.

8. Mozambique also encourages closer complementarity between global frameworks such as the PoA and ITI, and regional initiatives, including the SADC Protocol,

the Nairobi and Bamako Declarations, and the Silencing the Guns in Africa initiative.

**Chair,**

9. We are witnessing a dangerous convergence between conventional weapons and emerging technologies — including autonomous systems, armed drones, and artificial intelligence-enabled targeting.

10. These low-cost innovations magnify lethality and accessibility while escaping traditional arms-control regimes. Mozambique supports renewed global dialogue on the implications of these technologies and the need to preserve human control and accountability over all uses of force.

11. Finally, Mozambique reiterates its unwavering commitment to all internationally agreed instruments on conventional arms control and we remain firmly committed to the advancement of the disarmament agenda.

Thank you.