



Statement by Turkey

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION UNIVERSALIZATION 9 JUNE 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President in fact it was none of my intention to take the floor under this agenda item, nevertheless one intervention compelled me to do so.

We would like to emphasize that while trying to identify a range of tools against the use of anti-personnel landmines, it should be borne in mind that signing documents with terrorist groups that are also on the lists of various states and intergovernmental organizations, can easily lead to exploitation and encourage these groups to use such documents as a means of propaganda to claim legitimacy.

Continuing to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms is important. However, we should like to reiterate that when engagement by non-governmental organizations of armed non-State actors is considered, vigilance is required to prevent those organizations which carry out terrorist acts, from exploiting the Ottawa Process for their own goals. For the record, we once again state our concern that signing so called deeds of commitment without State Party consent is inconsistent with the above mentioned principle that when engagement with such groups is contemplated.

We strongly urge all international organizations and non-governmental organizations to refrain from drawing up any kind of documents, including in the form of so-called "deed of commitment", with terrorist organizations.

Thank you Mr. President.