

Dear Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all, using this opportunity, I would like to thank the Committee of the Convention and the Implementation Support Unit for organizing this event.

Today I would like to say some words about the Cooperation and Assistance in the humanitarian mine action in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan has extensive landmine contamination along its borders remaining from the Soviet era and Tajikistan's civil war in the 1990s. TNMAC, with financial support from international donors (USDOS, OSCE, Government of Norway) and the Government of Tajikistan performs the coordination and overall management of the land release operations in the country.

Despite the difficulties posed by the global pandemic, Tajikistan continues implementation of its obligations in front of the Ottawa Convention.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan cooperates closely with all the Implementing partners, TNMAC, stakeholders, donors, governments of the foreign countries and provides assistance and support in all issues related to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention.

With regard to the regional cooperation, I can provide a good example of cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in mine action, which became close thanks to the MoU signed between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Most valuable international experience of this cooperation was achieved in conducting QA/QC/QM activities on the Afghan side of the Tajik –Afghan border since 2017 with financial support from US Department of State, where specialists from TNMAC provided QA/QC on Afghan side based on national Mine action standards of Afghanistan. Cooperation between TNMAC and MACA develops in terms of constant mutual visits of the specialists, during which they share their experience with each other.

And, despite the global pandemic all over the world, TNMAC QA/QC Officers continued to perform their monitoring missions to FSD Afghanistan in 2020 and 2021 as well.

Another good example of cooperation is that starting from 2014 up to 2020 the EOD course level 1, 2, 3 and 3+ was organized for the specialists from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Ukraine, Mongolia and Afghanistan with the direct

financial support of the US Department of State, the OSCE, and the technical support of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan and the TNMAC. These courses contribute to strengthening the national capacity of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan as part of an integrated program for the prevention of explosive hazard and response in accordance with international mine action standards (IMAS).

TNMAC regularly receives technical and advisory support from GICHD and ISU in the information management, trainings, development of various important documents and other fields of mine action.

Here I also would like to note that every year the annual meetings of the Commission for Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL) devoted to Mine Action reporting and planning with participation of Governmental ministries, agencies and international stakeholders (OSCE, NPA, FSD) and UN agencies (UNDP, WHO, UNICEF) are conducted in the country. The CIIHL is chaired by the first deputy of Prime-Minister which is a clear indication of the importance the Government places on mine action. The deputy of the Head of CIIHL is the minister of Justice. Key representatives from relevant line-ministries (e.g. MoD, MoH, MoES, Border Guard, MIA, MS, MFA, CoES, NG, TNMAC) and authorities were included as constant members to the mentioned committee. CIIHL meetings ensure regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention.

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our current donors , US DoS, OSCE Norway and our partners GICHD, ISU, ICRC for their great contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. Also, we present our high gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies (NPA and FSD) that have been involved in the implementation of mine action program in Tajikistan.

Thank you for your attention