



**Anti - Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meetings: 19 - 20 may 2016
Statement by Sri Lanka**

Madam President,

On behalf of the Sri Lanka delegation, let me congratulate you and your team for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

Firstly, I wish to underline Madam President that Sri Lanka recognizes the human suffering caused by anti - personnel mines, and fully supports global endeavors to overcome challenges associated with land mines. Mine clearance, destruction of stockpiles and providing victim assistance constitute the main pillars of the legal framework in this regard.

Sri Lanka has participated at meetings of States Parties to the Convention in the past, contributing to the deliberations as well as learning best practices. Sri Lanka, in particular, has also voted in favour of the UNGA resolution on the 'Implementation of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - personnel Mines and on their Destruction'.

The Government of Sri Lanka has made mine clearance a priority along with mine risk awareness, especially in view of its importance for resettlement and livelihood development. We value the assistance and cooperation extended by donor countries, the UN as well as non - governmental organizations in these efforts and look to continued assistance. Sri Lanka is currently working to intensify its efforts through a strategic plan for 2016 - 2020, with the technical assistance of the GICHD. This aims to make Sri Lanka a mines threat free country by 2020.

Madam President,

As you would recall, the Government of Sri Lanka announced on 02 March 2016, that the Cabinet of Ministers of Sri Lanka has approved the proposal for Sri Lanka's accession to the Anti - Personal Mine Ban Convention. Following this significant development, Sri Lanka is currently in the process of consultation with stakeholders, including relevant ministries, to give effect to the same.

As reiterated on earlier occasions, the Government and the people of Sri Lanka are fully conscious that an opportunity has presented itself in the form of re-democratization, good governance and transparency, which needs to be availed of fully in taking decisions that will bring benefits first and foremost to the people of Sri Lanka. Based on this people-centric approach and security interests, the Government would take measures to implement the relevant international commitments.

Finally Madam President,

While sincerely thanking and appreciating the assistance and support provided to Sri Lanka by international partners including the UN and donors, we request continued support, to successfully resolve the remaining challenges associated with land mines.

We also wish you success on your tenure as the President, and for the preparations for the 15th Meeting of State Parties to be held in Santiago, Chile later this year.

Thank You.