Chairperson, members of Head table, distinguished Country representatives, Special Delegates. Good morning everybody.

Sri Lanka’s Vision is to be a mine-free Country and mine Impact-free Country by 2020.

With regard to implementation of Article 2 by end December 2017 at entry into force, Sri Lanka reported 27 sq km of remaining areas for Demining.

According to IMSMA the current remaining area for demining is 24 sq km as at April 2019.

The initial suspected area and Contoura Contaminated area is 1302 sq km in 2009. This was reduced to 24 sq km by April 2019.

However, the real remaining area to be cleared is 18.9 sq km. As IMSMA may not capture data for partially completed plots, the progress is not fully reflected in the IMSMA.

However, newly discovered area of 3 sq km has been incorporated.
Under the current funding arrangement, it will be only possible to complete 1.9 sq km in 2019; 9.18 sq km in 2020; and 6.8 sq km in 2021. If funding is made available for demining, currently Halo Trust, MAG, DASH, SITARAP, Sri Lanka Army are the operators clearing the land mines.

- The Norwegian Government has committed US$ 6.8 Mn to support demining in Sri Lanka.
- The main challenges include newly discovered mines.

As at 30th April 2019, 737,464 Anti-Personnel mines have been destroyed in Mined Fields and 1,407,689 other explosive items (UXO) have been destroyed. The other explosive items include Anti-tank, Small Arms Unexploded Ordinance, and Ammunition (SAA).

Based on the national and the International Standards, NMAC has set priorities based on high impacts rather than just undertaking
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demining of lands for outputs.
Accordingly priority has been given to residential areas of villages identified for resettlement, livelihood areas, access to schools, hospitals, religious centres, main roads which are considered as high priority land needed for agriculture infrastructure, development which have high impact. Impact is considered as more important than outputs.