

# Rep. OF KOREA 6 (a)

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

The Republic of Korea is fully committed to the objectives and purposes of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. At the same time, Korea ~~also~~ believes that a state's legitimate security concerns should be duly considered ~~when it comes to anti-personnel mine issues~~. Due to the unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, Korea cannot but place our priority on security and is unable to accede to the Ottawa Convention at this point.

Meanwhile  
✓ Korea is fully committed to mitigating humanitarian suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and, in this regard, actively participating in the related CCW discussion which strikes a balance between security concerns and humanitarian consideration. In particular, Korea is a Contracting Party to the CCW Amended Protocol II and is in full compliance with the Protocol which imposes humanitarian restrictions on the use of mines.

Mr. Chair,

National  
The Korean Ministry of Defense is leading domestic efforts to clear existing mines in a systemic and phased manner. From March to December 2018, for instance, Korea removed 240 mines including 232 anti-personnel mines over an area of approximately 151,000 square meters. In conducting demining activities, the ROK abides by the principles of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in the areas, inter alia, of the establishment of de-mining programmes, the procurement of equipment, education on mine actions, mine disposal, and safety and medical support. Among others, Korea has applied the IMAS verification process to verify its mine clearance completion in three operation areas since 2018.

In particular, Korea's demining activities in the DMZ are ongoing, in preparation of the joint excavation of the war remains, which is part of the Agreement in the Military Domain annexed to the 2018 Pyongyang Joint Declaration between the two Sides. This showcases that demining activities

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itself is a confidence-building measure among concerned parties and can contribute to advancing the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean government also enacted the Special Act on the Support for Mine Victims in 2014. In accordance with the provisions of the Special Act, a Committee under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of ~~Defense~~ <sup>National</sup> Defense has been providing assistance to mine accident victims and their ~~bereaved~~ family members to stabilize their livelihoods. In 2019, the Special Act has been revised to extend the application period to 2021.

Mr. Chair,

Korea has been taking part in international cooperation to support those affected by landmines by contributing to, inter alia, the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (UNVTF) and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance. Korea is also contributing to programmes in the Lao Republic, Viet Nam, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, so as to support the countries' own efforts to demine and build capacity in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

Korea would like to iterate its commitment to join international efforts to achieve the humanitarian objectives and purposes of the Ottawa Convention.

Thank you.