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Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.*

Geneva, 3-7 December 2012

Statement by The Gambia

Mr. President, excellences, ladies and gentlemen. The Gambia have no known mine areas and the only area which was reported as suspected to have anti-personal land-mines was the outskirts of a village located close to the Southern border with Republic of Senegal. This was due to an incident involving school children in year 2007. After this incident, the Gambia Army deployed in the border area to closely monitor the activities of the parties involved in the conflict in the border area in order to protect the communities from such undesirable happenings. The troops stationed along the area reported as suspected mine area did a thorough check but no other mines were found. At this stage the mentioned incident was treated as an isolated case.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Government and a local NGO also conducts mine risk/awareness education for the communities. This annual campaign covers all the communities along the Southern border.

Due to the lack of land mines in Gambia, there is no Mine Action Authority. The ministries of Defense, Interior and foreign affairs with Civil Society Organizations do coordinate to work on issues concerning anti-personnel land-mines.

At this juncture I would like to declare that the Gambia does not have mined areas and has no article 5 obligations. This will be reported in the next Article 7 Transparency report before the dead line for Article 5 implementation. Because of the close proximity to the Senegalese border and the unstable security situation at the border, there may be other isolated incidents in the future. In the event that