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CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER  
OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION

12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATE PARTIES

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Brazilian delegation wishes to congratulate you on your designation as President of this Meeting of State Parties. We extend to you our full support and cooperation.

Under this agenda item, I would like to highlight the Brazilian efforts on providing cooperation and assistance for mine clearance. The Brazilian Armed Forces have been engaged in international demining activities for almost two decades, particularly in Central and South America, as well as in Africa.

Since 1994, 371 officers from the Brazilian Army and Navy have taken part in demining missions under the auspices of the United Nations (particularly UNAVEM III, in Angola) and of the Organization of American States (MARMINCA, in Central America; MARMINAS, in South America, and the Group of International Monitors, in Colombia). Until 2010, in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia alone, Brazil had helped demine over 500,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Our national contribution amounts to around 50% of the OAS officers engaged in demining activities. Currently, we have 5 officers working in MARMINAS in the Peruvian-Ecuadorian border, and 3 officers participating in the Group of International Monitors, in Colombia.

In 2009, we started a new cooperation project with Benin, through its CPADD (Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions post-confliktuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution). Brazil has also helped train military and civilian officials from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique in humanitarian demining techniques.

In a rough estimate, cooperation and assistance provided by Brazil over the last 17 years, only in terms of personnel costs, would amount to some 19 million dollars, an average of 1.1 million a year. That does not include other expenses in mine action courses and seminars.

I thank you.