

Statement by Poland

for the

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

Santiago de Chile, 28.11-1.12.2016

Mr. President, Dear Delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chilean government for an excellent organization of this meeting and to thank for a very hospitable welcome. We highly appreciate prompt efforts undertaken by the Presidency and ISU to mobilize resources and to introduce efficiency measures to make this meeting possible.

Mr. President, Dear Delegates,

We will be soon celebrating 20 years of Ottawa Convention. During that time a significant progress was achieved in eliminating and alleviating challenges posed by antipersonnel mines. The Convention become an instrument setting international standards as over 80% of the countries in the world joined it.

Poland acceded to the Convention in 2012. But even before, reaffirming our attachment to the objectives of the Convention, we were behaving as de facto state party fulfilling most of its provisions. The majority of anti-personnel mines amounting to over 1 million were destroyed before we ratified the Convention. After accession we swiftly took measures to comply with obligations stemming from art. 4 by destroying remaining nearly 17 000 pieces and remaining components of dismantled mines. Today it is my great pleasure to inform you that Poland completed the destruction of our anti-personnel landmine stockpiles as of April this year. In practice, this means that we have destroyed well over 1 million mines more than a year before our formal art. 4 deadline (June 2017). In addition vast majority of mines were destroyed without adverse effect on the environment – through recycling of its components, wood and metal and using extracted TNT material for military training and other specific purposes, e.g. ice jams breaking on the rivers. I would like to underline that we decided not to leave any anti-personnel mines for training purposes – as Polish Engineering Forces have been using for such purposes simulators and imitators which do not meet art. 2 definition of anti-personnel mine.

Mr. President, Dear Delegates,

While we may have many reasons for optimism and confidence about the progress made, Poland remains concerned with constant use of anti-personnel mines in conflicts in many parts of the world. During previous years we made contributions towards functioning of ISU and to mine action and threat reduction in many countries

in the world. We intend to keep antipersonnel mines issue high on our political agenda and to actively engage towards reaching further progress in this area. We solidly stand behind main goals of the Convention and strongly support its further universalization and the main appeal of the 15MSP to fulfill outstanding commitments by 2025 to the extent possible.

Thank you.