

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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NATIONS, GENEVA**

**HEAD OF DELEGATION  
AT  
15TH MSP OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

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**IN  
SANTIAGO, CHILE**

Your Excellency Ambassador, Marta Maurás Perez  
President of the 15th MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban convention,  
Hon. delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this is the first time I am taking the floor, let me take this opportunity, to thank the Republic of Chile for hosting this 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of states parties and to congratulate you Madam President, on the way you are presiding over this conference. I assure you of my delegations support as you continue to dispense your duties throughout this meeting.

**Madam President**, Kenya appreciates that these meetings provide us an opportunity to take cognizance of the efforts made, challenges faced and successes achieved by States Parties in the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban convention in the intersessional period between Review Conferences. I will use this opportunity to provide an update on Kenya's status.

Kenya has remained committed to the convention, from when it hosted the First Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, also known as the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World in 2004. In line with this commitment, Kenya has never at any time, produced or exported antipersonnel mines. Indeed, Kenya's Armed Forces destroyed its stockpile of 35,774 antipersonnel mines in August 2003, which was far in advance of the country's treaty-mandated deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005. Kenya only initially retained a minimal amount of 3,000 anti-personnel mines for training purposes. Since then, a number of the mines have been used during training in detection, as well as clearance and destruction techniques at training facilities, and also consumed during humanitarian demining and Explosives Ordinance Disposal; practical exercises in demolition or destruction; and mine awareness training for peacekeeping contingents that have been deployed to various missions. This reduced the number of mines by 1,980 to 1,020 that were retained for the provided purposes.

I further wish to inform that Kenya has domesticated the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention through the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines Act 2015, which came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The Act outlines various offences related to anti-personnel mines, including definition of prohibited conduct, application of prohibitions to places outside Kenya, conduct during international military operations, authorized conduct, securing the destruction of anti-personnel mines, fact finding missions, and compensation for destruction. The passage of the Act represents a major step forward in terms of Kenya's fulfillment of its obligations under the Mine Ban Convention.

**Madam President,**

I wish to thank the distinguished representative of Switzerland for his report on Cooperation and Assistance and wish to commend the work of the committee and the various recommendations it has made, including the annual reminder to states parties to submit their returns.

To facilitate the enhancement of cooperation and assistance, under the convention, Kenya established an International Mine Action Training Centre (IMATC) in 2005 to train regional security actors on the dangers posed by anti-personnel mines. In 2009, the IMATC merged with Kenya's Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) to form one institution, the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC). This institution incorporates Kenya's Peace and Conflict Studies School (PCSS) and Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS).

Since 2011, the IPSTC has been autonomous through formal partnership arrangements with the USA, UK, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Germany and the UNDP. Through the HPSS School, various activities are undertaken including training of UN/AU police, International Military Observers (MILOBS) and civilian Pre-Deployment Training (PDT), Humanitarian Demining Training on Mines/UXO, Explosives Ordinance Disposal, and small arms and light weapons, as well as operational and tactical levels of disaster management and response training. In addition, the institution has recently commenced counter IED (Improvised Explosive Devices) training programmes in light of

the increasing usage of those weapons in our region. While the IPSTC is mandated to provide and has been training military and inter-agency response units and organizations within Eastern Africa, in practice, it has been providing training to other military and institutions across the continent of Africa, including civilian and police components from Africa and the rest of the world. During the year 2015 for instance, 135 courses were conducted in the Centre, with a remarkable 3,507 participants trained on diverse issues across the peace support operations spectrum. The Centre also conducts customized workshops, research work and evaluation. For instance, it carried out an evaluation and training needs assessment in South Sudan and AMISOM.

The IPSTC diversified its curriculum, expanding it beyond the pursuance of humanitarian de-mining and awareness as its sole output, due to the fact that having trained a significant proportion of the available East African Military in Humanitarian Demining, it recognized that there was a case of market saturation. However, if external funding and donor sponsorship are available, relevant and customized training on humanitarian demining, Mine Awareness and risk education and counter-IEDs can be discussed with the institution.

I thank you.