

Wednesday 17/9
Indonesia



**STATEMENT BY
MR. DIAN WIRENGJURIT
HEAD OF DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT
THE 5TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER
OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION
(THE OTTAWA CONVENTION)**

BANGKOK, 17 SEPTEMBER 2003

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation allow me, at the outset, to extend our warmest congratulation and to express our happiness to see you presiding this important gathering of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. The same also goes to the member of the Bureau. It is our firm conviction that under your vast experience and able guidance this meeting will bring about positive and constructive results.

Mr. President,

Ever since the early stage of the process toward the establishment of the Ottawa Convention Indonesia had attached particular importance to the world community's efforts to ban and eliminate landmines. Indonesia is not a landmines producing or mines affected country and has always maintained its strong commitment to put an end to these indiscriminate and horrendous weapons. Therefore, Indonesia was among the first countries to sign this Convention.

However, regrettably, in what seems to be against the wish of the international call, Indonesia up to date has not ratified yet the Ottawa Convention. This is not because we have a second thought of this issue and this is certainly not because we are now less committed toward the universalization of this Convention. I can assure you, Mr. President, that Indonesia's commitment remains unchanged. As stated in the Landmine Monitor Report of 2003 "Indonesia has continued to move toward ratification of Mine Ban Treaty". It is in this connection that in early 2002, for instance, in order to speed up this process, an Inter-Departmental Working Group for the Ratification of the Ottawa Convention was established under the coordinatorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ratification process is surely underway, though we cannot deny if it is considered as being slow or, as some states argue, even too slow. Unavoidable circumstances in the recent past as well as unpredictable challenges in the present time prevent us from accelerating this process uninterruptedly. *First*, multi-dimensional crises that hit Indonesia in 1997 is not completely resolved and Indonesia is still in the recovery process, at least in the economic terms. On the other hand, successive government changes in Indonesia during the last six years made this process again and again slow down while the incumbent government had its own priority program to focus on. And in 2002, the ratification process was once again interrupted due to tragic and barbaric terrorist attack in Bali. In other words, for the interest of its people, from time to time since the crisis the Government of Indonesia has to re-formulate its priority program.

Second, each state has its own rule concerning the ratification procedure and Indonesia is no exception in this case. In 1998, the Presidential Decree no. 188 was declared, regulating steps or measures to be taken in the process of ratification of international legal instruments. In this framework, the process of ratification of the Ottawa Convention should consequently be carried out on a step by step basis. It is in accordance with the Decree that an Inter-Departmental Working Group has been established, an agreement has been reached to formulate an initial draft and the Government of Indonesia is currently in the phase of compiling inputs from all interested segments of society before it comes up with a final draft. So, this is purely a matter of bureaucratic procedure.

Third, it is broadly accepted that ratification would be the first step toward the full compliance and adherence to the treaty and the most important step is its full implementation. To do this would require sufficient number of people with good knowledge and expertise that we could depend on and we have to acknowledge that in Indonesia human resources in the landmines field are lagging. With our

limited capacity we continue to draw and attract people attention and awareness of the importance of the Ottawa Convention and the need to fully adhere to it.

And *fourth*, in a country with its vast geographical areas and huge number of population like Indonesia, raising people awareness to the danger of landmines would need extra efforts. Information should be disseminated throughout the country in order to obtain maximum support to the Ottawa Convention; the support, in turn, is needed to accelerate its ratification and smoothen its implementation. In 2002 alone, a number of dissemination programs had been organized in various regions and a seminar had been held in this connection. Further activities have been programmed, but this would certainly be backed up by strong political and financial support and this, of course, would mostly depend on government's availability.

Mr. President,

The above mentioned challenges have significantly hampered Indonesia's ratification to the Ottawa Convention, but certainly do not stop the process. It is true that to date Indonesia is only a signatory state of the Convention. But in practice, Indonesia has complied and adhered to the content and the spirit of the Convention since its signing in 1997 and will continue to keep its commitment intact. We will continue to attach great importance to this issue and seriously intend to contribute toward achieving a world free of landmines. In due course, we are ready to join the international community in their efforts toward the universalization of the Ottawa Convention by ratifying it. We fervently hope that this will come into reality in the not too distant future.

I thank you Mr. President.