



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
PERMANENT MISSION AT GENEVA

(Please check against delivery)

Statement by H. E .Ambassador Cheng Jingye
Head of the Chinese Observer Delegation
At the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties
to the Ottawa Convention
(Geneva ,18th September 2006)

Madam President,

Please allow me to begin with congratulating the holding of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, on behalf of the Chinese delegation. My congratulation also goes to you on your assumption of the Presidency of this important meeting. I am sure that your capabilities and experience will steer this meeting to a full success.

Madam President,

Since its entering into force 7 years ago, the Ottawa Convention has made an important contribution to easing the humanitarian concerns caused by anti-personnel landmines.

By upholding the principle of "putting the people first", the Chinese government always accords top priority to the security and benefit of the people, and attaches great importance to the humanitarian concerns caused by landmines. We support the relevant efforts of the international community, and have done our share in addressing this humanitarian problem.

For years, China has taken active measures to clear landmines on its own territory. In order to ensure the safety of the people living in the relevant border areas and promote the local economic and social development, China launched a new round of operation to clear landmines in the border areas last year, based on the achievement of the two large-scale de-mining operations in the 1990s.

China has strictly implemented the Amended Landmine Protocol through tight control over every stage from the manufacturing to the use of landmines. We completed a comprehensive survey of APLs both stockpiled and in service last year, and we continue to destroy landmines that do not comply with the technical parameters of the Protocol, while making technical modifications to those that can still function normally.

China has also exercised maximum restraint in exporting APLs. The Chinese Government has observed in good faith its moratorium started from 1996 on the export of the APLs that do not conform to the requirements of the Amended Landmine Protocol. In fact, China has basically halted exports of all kinds of APLs.

China has actively participated in international de-mining assistance through practical and feasible means over the years. Ever since 1998, China has made active contributions to the de-mining efforts of about 10 Asian and African countries with financial aid, de-mining equipments and hosting technical training courses. Before long, China will provide de-mining technical training assistance to Lebanon and

Jordan and donate some detecting and de-mining equipments. Moreover, China is also planning to provide further de-mining assistance to some mine-affected African countries.

Madam President,

Although China is not a state party to the Ottawa Convention, we appreciate the humanitarian spirit embodied in this Convention and endorse its purposes and objectives. In recent years, China has maintained good contact with the process of the Convention, which is beneficial and constructive. Last year, China voted in favor of the resolution on "Implementation of the Ottawa Convention" for the first time in the UN General Assembly. This further demonstrates our recognition for and high attention to the role of the Convention. China is ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the states parties and relevant international institutions as well as non-governmental organizations, in realizing our shared objectives and thoroughly resolving the humanitarian concerns caused by the APLs.

In conclusion, I wish this meeting a complete success.

Thank you, Madam President.