



UKRAINE

*Eighth Meeting of the States Parties of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-personnel Mines on Their Destruction*

STATEMENT

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Mr. President,

Since I take the floor the first time, please allow me to join the previous speakers in extending to you my sincere congratulations upon your assumption of the Presidency of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties of the Ottawa Convention.

I am sure that your professionalism and wise leadership in this Meeting will help identifying new ideas and approaches to the strengthening and improving the Convention effectiveness and its implementation.

Ms. President,

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to use the opportunity to take the floor today as the Head of the Delegation of Ukraine – a member-state to the Ottawa Convention, which Ukraine signed in February 1999 and since that time has put every effort to observe respective obligations. From the very beginning Ukraine has supported the aspirations of the Ottawa-process initiators and like-minded states to overcome humanitarian crisis caused by a large-scale proliferation and indiscriminate use of Anti-Personnel Mines (APL) and wished to see the world free of this type of weapons.

In my intervention I would like to focus on some aspects of the implementation process of the Convention's provisions, I particularly on destroying stockpiled Anti-personnel Mines (APL) in Ukraine.

Having ratified the Ottawa Convention on 18 May 2005 Ukraine made its valuable contribution to the universalization of the Ottawa Convention. At the same time our thesis is that universalization of the Convention encompasses

much more than simple counting of the deposited instruments. First and foremost it is aimed at the comprehensive and effective implementation of its crucial provisions, which still remains a challenge.

Being in line with the objectives, proclaimed in the 2004 Nairobi Declaration, Ukraine has taken significant steps towards universal recognition and, hence, strengthening of international norms to ban this kind of weapons. This is our strong belief that the real implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty can only be achieved if it is backed up not only with political will or number of eloquent statements, but also with adequate resource mobilization through practical cooperation with donor-countries.

I would like to refer again to the historical outputs of the Nairobi Summit, when all the States- Parties reaffirmed their unqualified commitment to the full and effective promotion and implementation of the Ottawa Convention. In this regard it seems to be important indeed to feel the firm determination of the international community to cooperate effectively in order to secure the achievements to date, spare no effort to promote further developments and to meet challenges ahead of this cause of peace. A lot has been already done by many States and international organizations to ensure that the Convention lives up to its promise, and Ukraine is determined to continue its active participation in achieving Treaty's paramount goals.

Being abided first of all by its commitments under the Convention, Ukraine is opened to constructive dialogue to meet with timely implementation of the Convention's crucial provisions on destruction of all types of APL stockpiled on ~~its~~ **our** territory, mine-clearance, rehabilitation and reintegration of the landmine victims.

I have the pleasure to inform that Ukraine transmitted its two National Reports in time in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

In this regard I would like to point out that according to the Order of the Government of Ukraine from August 2005, demining units of Ukraine take a responsibility for making work operation, main task of which is explosive APL, ordnance disposal and destruction remnants of War, modern ammunition and explosive devices. There are 54 demining units in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Training of the personnel for the demining groups is caring out in the Demining Center for Armed Forces of Ukraine and for other Force structures of Ukraine including Main Department of Reconnaissance, special groups of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Extraordinary Situations of Ukraine, for peacekeeping missions and humanitarian demining operations. Later on, during a focused discussion on mine-clearance, I would like to deliver a separate presentation on Ukraine's capacities in this field.

Thank you for your attention.