


18/11/07  
PM.

**TALKING POINTS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PHILIP OWADE-LEADER OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION TO THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION-DEAD SEA, JORDAN 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

1. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of the Hashemite Republic of Jordan for hosting this Eighth Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of the Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. We also congratulate His Royal Highness Prince Mired for his election to preside over the 8<sup>th</sup> MSP.
2. Kenya is particularly delighted that the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention is taking place in this City of great historical and religious importance. This is a region that has suffered immensely from the devastating impacts of landmines. It is our hope that the holding of the meeting in Jordan will help sensitize the countries of the Middle East on the issue of landmines and that more countries from the region would join the Convention. Achieving universality is one of the key objectives of the Convention that we must strive to achieve.
3. I am happy to note that since the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention held in Nairobi from 29<sup>th</sup> November-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004, considerable progress has been made. Reports by State parties indicate that the production, trade-in and uses of the Anti-Personnel Mines have been markedly reduced.
4. I would like to recall that the Nairobi Plan of Action (2005-2009) spelt out a solid framework to accomplish major objectives. It took stock of achievements made and defined a clear way forward.
5. The Plan of Action agreed on a number of issues including:
  - ✓ That universal adherence to the Convention will remain a top priority during the period 2005-2009
  - ✓ That destruction of Stockpiled Anti-Personnel Mines will remain a major priority.
  - ✓ That a major challenge for State Parties remains in meeting the 10-year mine clearance deadline. This requires intensive and concrete efforts by mine-affected State Parties and partners.
  - ✓ That the States Parties should provide for rehabilitation and re-integration of mine victims.

- 
6. As a State Party since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001, Kenya is committed to fulfill her responsibilities including that of domestication of the instrument.
  7. We have previously reported on the destruction of stockpiles, in conformity with the Convention.
  8. At the regional level, Kenya has leveraged its advantage as a peaceful country in a region afflicted by conflict. We have helped heal the wounds of conflict, in part by acting as a State Party in a position to provide assistance, contributing mine clearance capacity as part of the peacekeeping effort on the frontier between Ethiopia, Eritrea and in Southern Sudan. Kenya also provides a facilitator's platform for efforts to reconcile ongoing conflicts in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. This reduces the incidences of weapons proliferation, including Anti-personnel Mines being used.
  9. At the continental level, Kenya is committed to pursuing the aims of the African Union's Common Position on Landmines, which was adopted by African Union Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005. The AU has taken a strong position. We are determined to actualize continental commitment to ultimately realize concrete results on the ground.
  10. At the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly Kenya called for resolute efforts to ensure that the Nairobi Action Plan is implemented to its fullest extent, enabling us to realize our collective vision of a totally "mine-free world". The plight and painful picture of our fellow human beings afflicted by these weapons must come to an end.
  11. With the support of the Government of the United Kingdom, Kenya has set up the International Mine Action Training Centre (IMATC) in Embakasi-Nairobi, the only one of its kind in Africa. The Centre continues to train deminers from the East African region and beyond. Several African countries have sent deminers for training at the Centre. The Centre has also hosted workshops for senior managers and UN Chief Mine Action officers sponsored by UNDP and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHID).
  12. Finally the Nairobi Summit was not an end in itself, but a useful forum to fulfill our collective responsibilities to protect and contribute to human security. The implementation of it's objectives and principles is our collective responsibility and should remain our focus as we move forward.

THANK YOU.