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THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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**EIGHT MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PEROSONAL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

ITEM 11 c): Mine Clearance

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Mr. Dusko Uzunovski
Head of Delegation

AMMAN, November 19, 2007

Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since, that I am taking the floor for the first time, please allow me to join all previous speakers who have congratulated you on your election for President of the 8th MSP. We also share the conviction that your able leadership will bring us to the envisaged results of the 8th Meeting.

I would like to state that the Republic of Macedonia fully associates itself with the statement distributed yesterday by the Delegation of Portugal on behalf of the EU.

In addition I would like to make a few comments and to provide some information in our experience regarding the mine clearance process.

8MSP is a very important milestone in the history of the Convention. It is a turning point; it is a point of acceleration in overall implementation of the Ottawa Convention. With the fact that we have convened this meeting in Jordan, for the first time in the Middle East is another sign of determination of all state parties to succeed in achieving the goals of the Convention.

I have the pleasure to commence my statement by reiterating that the Republic of Macedonia is a part of the group of State Parties that have already fulfilled its obligations under article 4 and article 5 of the MBT. I truly believe that the results accomplished serve as an encouragement not only to the state parties in our Region. Your Royal Highness, in this context, I would like to extend our support to the principle mentioned in your Statement at the Opening Ceremony: that the most important goal of the Convention is to achieve results, no matter of the size of the country. We also commend the intention of Jordan to fulfill the obligation under article 5 until the end of 2008. ~~That will be practical evidence that the progress of implementation is increased not only by number of states, but also by enlarged number of Regions where a state party has fulfilled article 5.~~

In regard to the case of the Republic of Macedonia, I would like to stress that our accomplishments are contributing directly to confidence building amongst the countries in the Region, implementation of the regional initiative: SEE zone free of anti-personal mines by 2009; improvement of the safety in the border zones, strengthening the stability in the Region, normalization of the life in the previously contaminated zones and in addition producing preconditions for the local economic development.

In our view, Mine Clearance under article 5 is essential for full success of the Convention. Requests that will come for an extension of the deadlines should be completely elaborated by the respective state parties, as per the template provided in these conference documents.

In order to ease the decision process about extension, the MofSP has to be provided with a precise plan and program by the respective country

with deadline for final fulfillment of the obligations under the Article 5. Beside other things, this kind of approach certainly will be useful for the donor countries. On the other hand, in this fragment we have to also be fair to those countries that have already fulfilled its obligation and to avoid endless continuation of this process.

Your Royal Highness,

The Republic of Macedonia with generous assistance of the country partners, have made maximum efforts to fulfill its obligations even before the deadlines set out in the Convention. The assistance by the donor countries was essential to reach this goal. Jointly we have developed and trained our own demining teams and later we have achieved the results that we are proud of.

In our case and we hope in many other to follow, the genuine cooperation in the framework of the Ottawa Convention will stay as unique hallmark and mechanism destined to success. This attitude is making the Convention an excellent fore in the domain of Disarmament in which we are practically demonstrating **successful cross regional cooperation fully dedicated to the security, protection and care for citizens.**

In the year that we are celebrating the 10th anniversary, we have to make all necessary efforts to turn the actual stage of "success in progress" into the next phase that will not last too long – to make the Convention "a complete success story".

The Republic of Macedonia truly believes that this goal is possible and achievable.

Your Royal Highness,

In concluding, allow me to again express our gratitude for the Jordanian hospitality that we are enjoying on the 8th Meeting of the State Parties of the Ottawa Convention.

Thank you.