

**Statement by Nicole Hew A Kee, representative of the Republic of  
Suriname in the Workshop on the role of the Caribbean Community in  
pursuing the Aims of the Ottawa Convention, 29-30 juni 2006**

Mr. Chairman/Madame Chairperson

It is an honour as a member of the Caribbean Community to participate in this Workshop. I would like to thank the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for the opportunity given to Suriname to be part of this important and instructive event.

With the ratification of the Ottawa Convention in 2002 my country became an active participant in the implementation procedures of this Convention. The Inter-departmental Commission on anti-personnel mines installed by the Government of Suriname prepared documents and national reports on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention. In close cooperation with the National Army and the assistance of the Organisation of American States Suriname fulfilled her obligations under article 4 on stockpile destruction and article 5 on mine-clearance.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 part of the stockpiled anti-personnel mines was destroyed by detonation at the military training base. In total 146 anti-personnel mines were destroyed in two parts. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense, the ICBL, the International Red Cross, the OAS, the Honorary Consul of Canada in Suriname, the media and the inter-departmental commission have attended the destruction proceedings.

Mr Chairman/Madam Chairperson,

In preparing the demining project, the Inter-departmental Commission has negotiated with the OAS for technical and financial assistance. During the on-site visit by the OAS in July 2004 arrangements were made for the mine-clearance at Stolkertsijver.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 an official agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Suriname and the General Secretariat of the OAS on the assistance program for the comprehensive action against Anti-personnel mines.

In the period february - april 2005 a delegation from the OAS, the Army of Honduras and the National Army of Suriname started the mine-clearance process at Stolkertsijver.

During the preparation activities for the mine-clearance the National Army of Suriname found 3 mines which were also destroyed by detonation.

The remaining anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed by the army of Honduras and the National Army of Suriname. Suriname implemented article 5 of the Ottawa Convention before the deadline of 2012 and was declared mine-free as of April 2005 by the OAS.

Mr. Chairman/Madame Chairperson,

The demining operations were carried out in accordance with the doctrine and techniques provided and approved by the Inter-American Defense Board and which fulfill the obligations outlined in the International Humanitarian Demining standards.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that Suriname has submitted its annual national reports in conformity with article 7 of the treaty, since 2003.

In closing Mr.Chairman/Madame Chairperson, I would like to reiterate Surinames committment to the full implementation of the Ottawa Convention and remains to cooperate with the regional and international organisations. We support the efforts for universalization of the Ottawa Convention in order to reach a mine free world where every person can have a safe and secure life.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman/ Madame Chairperson