

Statement by Myanmar
At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on
the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction
Geneva, 26-30 November 2018

Madame President,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

- On behalf of Myanmar delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Madame President, on the assumption of the Presidency of the 17th Meeting of the State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Madame President,

- Myanmar has been participating as an observer in the meeting of state parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention since 2003 with an aim to increase understanding on the Convention and its works.
- Myanmar recognizes the importance of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention in putting an end to the suffering and human casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, in saving lives and in returning hope and human dignity.
- We also believe that universalization of the convention is vital in reducing the humanitarian harms.

Madame President,

- Let me share some of the recent activities of Myanmar with regard to the Convention.
- Despite Myanmar is not yet a state party to the Convention at this moment, we support the work of the Convention by attending the Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention and taking necessary

measures especially in terms of mine clearance, victims assistance and mine risk education.

- The Government has been actively cooperating with the relevant international organizations in the mine action sector.
- As the ministries concerned of Myanmar are working together with UNICEF and humanitarian mine action related organizations on the ground to deliver Mine Risk Education, over 200,000 people in the affected area received the mine risk education in 2018 alone. Necessary assistances are being provided to landmine victims. Moreover, the Government has recently accepted the principle of marking dangerous areas in line with International Mine Action Standards.
- The Convention Universalization Task Force led by Special Envoy HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Husseini visited Myanmar in May this year and met with the relevant ministers and senior officials. .
- In this connection, we are appreciative of the work of the Special Envoys of the Convention for their long-standing dedication and contribution to a world free of mines.

Madame President,

- Building peace is the most fundamental and important task for the process of clearing all landmines in Myanmar. The Government has placed the peace process the highest priority in its agenda since it came into the office.
- Since regaining the independent, Myanmar has endured almost 70 years of internal armed conflicts. The Government is conducting negotiations for reconciliation among different institutions and ethnic armed groups through the Union Peace Conferences.
- The Government has been encouraging all EAOs in Myanmar to sign Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). So far 10 Ethnic Armed

Organizations (EAO) have signed NCA, which include the provision on landmine clearance.

Madame President,

- One of the biggest challenges for the world to free from mines is the use of anti-personnel mines by terrorist groups and non-state armed groups which has resulted in a significant increase in casualties.
- We believe that constructive engagement of the relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil societies will contribute to overcoming that challenge. We strongly believe that with the continued support of the international community and closer cooperation between Myanmar and the relevant international organizations, more progress will be made in the mine action sector.

Madame President,

- Regarding the accusation made by a delegation on Myanmar regarding the use of mines in its statement yesterday, the security forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh have been conducting coordinated patrol along the border in the west of Myanmar. Coordinated patrol has been made for (19) times so far since August this year. No incidents of landmines casualty have been reported in the area.

Madam President,

- Such accusation without concrete evidence will not help facilitate countries to join the Convention.
- In conclusion, we would like to encourage relevant international organizations and the states parties to further strengthen cooperation with the countries which are not yet ready to accede to the Convention by providing more necessary technical assistance which we believe will facilitate them to join the Convention expeditiously.
- Thank you, Madam President.