

STATEMENT

by H.E. Ambassador Yurii KLYMENKO,

Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva,

Head of the delegation of Ukraine to the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production
and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,

(16 – 20 November 2020, Geneva)

Item 7 of PoW, General exchange of views

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

First of all, let me extend my warmest congratulations to you, Mr. President, on the assumption of your important duties and wish you every success in your endeavors in chairing this Meeting in its new virtual format.

Ukraine considers the anti-personnel mines (APM) and other dangerous explosive devices' contamination as one of the most significant challenges to the IHL implementation. Anti-personnel mines strike blindly and insidiously killing and maiming both servicemen and civilians.

Our country recognizes and highly values the important role played by the APMBC as an effective disarmament mechanism, as well as fully supports its universalization. Ukraine has acceded to the Convention fourteen years ago and since then has been doing its utmost to fully abide by its provisions. Despite significant security challenges, Ukraine remains committed to its international obligations in the field of mine action, including proper realization of the Oslo Action Plan 2020-2024.

The relevant Ukrainian efforts are being undertaken against the backdrop of continuing since 2014 Russian aggression against Ukraine accompanied by active usage of mines, including anti-personnel. As a result, Ukraine has been conducting intensive demining activities to dispose of the growing number of this weaponry and other dangerous Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in its east. While the areas suspected to contain mines in Donetsk and Luhansk regions were identified, in particular, by the HALO Trust, Danish Demining Group and Fondation Suisse de Deminage, their

demining is quite complicated, since they are being shelled mostly on a daily basis by the armed units of the Russian occupation administration.

As it is known, in the period of 2007 – 2013, there were no mined areas under Ukraine's jurisdiction or control, containing anti-personnel mines. However, the Russian aggression against Ukraine has fully changed the situation. Because of the remaining exceptional circumstances and challenges affecting our state as a result of Russia's abovementioned actions, Ukraine has requested for the second time the States Parties to extend the deadline for completing mine clearance in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention until 1 December 2023. The Ukrainian delegation will perform the detailed presentation of the request during the agenda item 8 consideration and hopes for its final approval.

In the meantime, Ukraine in accordance with Article 6 is actively engaged in the socio-economic reintegration and employment of mine victims who receive compensations and treatment, and will be registered in the national mine victim database.

Our country has developed and approved the national standard "Mine action - Management processes - basic provisions", in line with International Mine Action Standards. It has also created an effective demining quality management system, which includes certification of mine action operations and demining quality control.

In pursuance of Article 4 of the Convention, Ukraine remains committed to the destruction of its stockpiled APMs and is going to intensify interaction with relevant stakeholders on the matter.

The Ukrainian side sincerely thanks all international partners for their support in the implementation of the APMBC and would appreciate their continues assistance in mine risk education, sharing modern ERW detection and destruction technologies as well as necessary equipment.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Ukraine looks forward to a productive and fruitful discussions during the Meeting, and is ready for joint efforts to achieve a successful outcome.

I thank you.