

**Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and  
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction**

**Geneva, 21 to 25 November 2022**

**(full statement)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties this year. The Republic of Korea is pleased to attend the Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as an observer.

Given its unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, the Republic of Korea is yet to accede to the Ottawa Convention while it aligns itself with the objectives and purposes of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and remains concerned about the humanitarian impacts of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines.

Sharing the humanitarian aims of the Convention, we have made various efforts to mitigate the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. My delegation would like to elaborate on some practical steps it has taken.

The ROK is continuing with its mine clearing efforts, where possible, in a systemic and phased manner. In conducting demining activities, the ROK has abided by the majority of the principles of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In this connection, the ROK Army Engineering School launched a new humanitarian demining program last year in which 249 officers took part over the course.

We are also exercising strict control over anti-personnel landmines and have maintained an indefinite extension of the moratorium on their export since 1997. In a related manner, the Republic of Korea has not installed anti-personnel mines for several years.

As for the existing mines, we are undertaking all possible precautionary measures to protect civilians from the risks and effects of mines in accordance with relevant provisions of its law specifically enacted to implement the CCW (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) Amended Protocol II.

Moreover, the Republic of Korea has been taking part in international cooperation efforts to support those affected by landmines through multilateral channels including the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine action and the International Trust Fund for De-mining and Mine Victims Assistance. Aside from such financial contribution, the ROK government will send one Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) starting from next year.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is also contributing to the capacity building programs of the affected population and communities in countries across different regions. Experts in our Ministry of National Defense have also been participating in these efforts by providing technical assistance. Furthermore, Through the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial held last year in Seoul, my government announced a specific pledge to contribute to capacity building for mine removal including through bilateral provision of de-mining training courses and equipment.

The Republic of Korea wishes to close by reiterating its support and commitments to the objectives and purposes of the Ottawa Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President. /END/