

Mr. Chairman,

Unfortunately, there are still far too many mine-affected States Parties, 33 presently, in the process of implementing Article 5 clearance obligations. They need our unwavering support.

Poland commends, in that respect, Oman and Sri Lanka for their determination to meet treaty deadlines regarding clearance. We also express support to Cambodia and Thailand, and hope for further progress to complete Article 5 implementation.

The issue of Eritrea's non-compliance with the Convention awaits further clarification. We would like it to be resolved on the basis of solutions offered in the Treaty, in a transparent and cooperative manner.

Recent withdrawal of Eritrea's notification to renounce the Ottawa Treaty is a positive development, although doubts remain about the way ahead. We hope that Eritrea will be soon back on track by following the procedure prescribed by article 5 of the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

In view of the 25th Anniversary of Ottawa Convention's adoption, the path ahead is not entirely safe or "decontaminated". We still have to face great and even increasing burdens. The remaining commitments are still there and pose particular concerns, therefore, especially mine clearance should remain high on the Convention's agenda.

It is now evident how conflicts on a large scale, right at the doors of Poland and the European Union can be highly destabilizing and aggravate situations of State Parties like Ukraine, creating enormous obstacles in the area of demining (decontamination) for years to come.

Constructive engagement in cooperation and providing assistance to the mine affected is nowadays even more urgent. Poland has shown determination in keeping a stable level of funding to mine action since 2015. We value the exchanging of experiences on multi-stakeholder forums, with other donors, regarding mine action.

European Union and its Member States have a significant role to play in mitigating the mine problem. According to Landmine Monitor 2023 (and figures do not lie), the UE was second behind the US in 2022, in terms of contributing funds to mine action worldwide.

On another brighter note, there is much more space elsewhere, in other spheres, like the political one, where we can gather wider support for mine action. Poland did exactly that in 2023 by facilitating on behalf of the EU the negotiating and adoption of the "Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action". The document is negotiated and adopted every second year by the Fourth Committee. It came at a special juncture, when we have to cope with the destructive effects of a conflict, a direct blatant aggression.

The language in the Resolution was modified to reflect threats and challenges of the present, including reference to the impact of ERW on civilians and on land cultivation, and also reference to the threat posed by IEDs and alignment with UN's stance on reducing the human cost of weapons.

Let me mention, as another achievement, Poland's constructive role in facilitating the adoption of a draft resolution in support of CCW Convention in the First Committee (resolution A/C.1/78/L.44 titled "*Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*"). This resolution

strengthens CCW implementation and of its Protocols, especially Additional Protocol II and Protocol V.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.