

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

Geneva, 20 to 24 November 2023

(full statement)

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Twenty-first 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 (APMBC) as an observer.

In light of the unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, the Republic of Korea is yet to accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention while it aligns itself with the objectives and purposes of the 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 2022, 822 anti-personnel mines were removed over an area of approximately 377 thousands square meters. In conducting demining activities, the ROK has abided by the principles of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in areas such as the establishment of mine action programs, procurement of mine action equipment, mine disposal, mine action

and risk education, and verification. In this connection, the ROK Army Engineering School provided humanitarian de-mining program which 317 officers took part in last year.

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 also been actively taking part in international cooperation efforts to support those affected by landmines, through bilateral and multilateral channels including the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF), and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Since 1993, the ROK government has made a contribution of over 90 million USD to support global demining activities. Our assistance programs include provision of humanitarian demining training and equipment, rehabilitation and capacity-building 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.

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/