

POLAND – General Debate statement

Mr. Chairman,

We want to thank You for your organizational efforts in preparing the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (21MSP). Rest assured that we support you fully in this important endeavor.

The 21MSP gives us the opportunity to underscore the importance of this unique Convention, and the need to implement it fully and transparently. Effective implementation is contingent on a couple of pre-conditions. Let me throw light on two of them.

Firstly, we should highlight the relevance of submitting article 7 reports. In fulfilling this obligation, in a timely and thorough manner, we contribute to overcoming serious challenges by State Parties.

I refer especially to those States which are mine-affected and have to deal with fulfillment of time-bound commitments. Without the data comprised in reporting timeplates we would not have the awareness that we obviously need to effectively realize our tasks resulting from the Convention. Without transparency, reaching progress by each State Party, notably regarding time-bound commitments, would be far more difficult if not impossible.

Secondly, referring to the above mentioned challenges/commitments, we should show increased determination in honoring them. The level of engagement that we show in this respect confirms whether we could be treated as responsible State Parties.

Our ultimate success, which means attaining a *Mine-Free World* depends hugely on individual approaches, which often depend on joint, concerted action. Cooperation within coalitions, also related to the level and quality of assistance, in particular continuous mine-action funding is crucial.

Mr. Chair,

On a positive tone, it seems that in 2022 there has been an increase in global support for mine action: the latest figure is US\$913.5 million which represents a 52% increase from support provided in 2021. This is data was taken from the new 2023 Landmine Monitor. The Monitor also mentions, which is very encouraging, that US\$162.3 million of this amount went to activities in Ukraine.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.