

Mr. President/ Chair of the Committee,

Members of the Committee

Distinguished delegates,

Ukraine is a reliable member of the international community and fully committed to the implementation of all international obligations in the field of mine action, including the non-use of anti-personnel mines as mean of the warfare.

Even during period of martial law, while Ukraine uses its inherent right of self-defense against the illegal and brutal Russian aggression, Ukraine continues to fully fulfill its international obligations against the background of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide of the Ukrainian population committed by the Russian occupiers.

The Ukrainian side has always demonstrated its readiness for cooperation with the Presidency, the Compliance Committee, Implementation Support Unit and international non-governmental organizations. And we appreciate the discussions in course of the previous interactions during last and this year.

We take seriously all the concerns related to the alleged use of anti-personnel mines on the territory under Ukraine's jurisdiction and control.

While at the moment we do not have information which would corroborate the veracity of allegations made by some NGO's concerning the use of anti-personnel mines by the Ukrainian Armed Forces, we stand ready to conduct further inquiry into the manner and will keep you updated on the outcome in due course.

Currently, Ukraine, have been established specialized structures at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine to record war crimes committed during the Russian aggression.

**Mr. President/ Chair of the Committee,
Members of the Committee
Distinguished delegates,**

The Ukrainian Defense Forces fully comply with the norms of the International Humanitarian Law and the provisions of the international conventions which Ukraine is a party to, in particular the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their

Destruction and the 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.

In the course of preparing to perform tasks, the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine are guided by orders of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which contain a direct reference to the requirements of the Ottawa Convention.

In order to prevent civilian casualties, as non-technical/technical surveys of the liberated areas for explosive ordnance are conducted, planned measures are being taken to mark the territory contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war and mines, and to inform the population about the mine risk.

Despite the fact that Russia is not a party to the Ottawa Convention, the continued massive use with impunity of anti-personnel mines by the Russian armed forces against the civilian population of Ukraine, especially the use of POM-3 Medallion mines, which are particularly dangerous for civilians, is a serious

violation of international humanitarian law and it should be considered with due attention. Currently, the use of prohibited anti-personnel mines by the Russian Federation has been confirmed during the demining of the de-occupied territories by Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Recorded violations are subject to criminal investigation. Investigations into the countless war crimes committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine will require significant time and human resources.

In addition, we would like to draw attention to the fact that Ukraine now is under a constant threat of air strikes by Russian's missiles and kamikaze drones aiming at ammunition storages. For example, only in May this year, Russia attacked about 20 times the rearward areas of Ukraine with missiles and Shahed-type drones. More than hundred cruise and ballistic missiles and about 200 drones were used. Accordingly, situation regarding ammunition storages can be changed.

Ukraine is grateful to the non-governmental humanitarian organizations that, through their publications and active public

position, draw the attention of the international community to violations of humanitarian law and the rules of warfare by the Russian Federation. At the same time, it should be noted that the publications of the NGO`s and their analysis should clearly define who is the aggressor and who is the victim of aggression.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Ukraine remains fully committed to the principles of the Ottawa Convention and looks forward to maintaining an open, transparent, constructive and professional dialogue with the Committee in the letter and spirit of the Convention.

I thank you for your attention.