



## **Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

### **Statement by Ms. Dayani Mendis, Director General/United Nations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

#### **Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

#### **Item 6: Renewing the Political Commitment to the Convention – High Level Segment** **25 November 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

His Excellency Ly Thuch, President of the Fifth Review Conference,  
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I am honoured to address the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

It is our fervent hope that this Conference that takes place in a country that has been deeply affected by the impact of mines will take us closer to achieving the objectives of the Convention.

My country, Sri Lanka, which acceded to the Convention in December 2017, knows well, through experience, the importance of a mine-free world. Therefore, we keep working with determination, with the support of the international community, to do our part to make the vision of a mine-free world a reality.

We note with concern that there have been no new State Parties to the Convention in the last five years. In this context, as we embark on a renewed journey with renewed political commitment for the next five years with the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029, we hope that universalization of the Convention will become a not-too-distant possibility.

It is important that all States Parties and stakeholders redouble their efforts to work towards universal adherence to the Convention and establish truly universal norms against anti-personnel mines. It is critical that renewed and creative efforts are made to mobilize renewed world-wide public support for the Convention.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka has made significant progress in mine action, as outlined in the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan and the Oslo Action Plan, 'National Ownership' is one of the key driving elements of our National Mine Action Completion Strategy. Sri Lanka's National Action Plan is coordinated across all relevant sectors of the government. Mine action has become an integral part of the socio-economic development of the affected areas, and thus integrated into the national development plans through multiple aspects including gender, disability, health, environment, climate response, and disaster risk reduction.

Having recognized the remaining challenges in mine clearance, the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) of Sri Lanka is working diligently in collaboration with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and other stakeholders including international donors, to achieve the target of a mine-free Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has taken steps to accelerate its Victim Assistance Programme ensuring that survivors and affected communities receive comprehensive support for their physical and psychological wellbeing, healthcare, rehabilitation, socio-economic needs, and for re-integration into society in a dignified manner. In view of Sri Lanka's upcoming priorities in the mine action programme and to enhance its contribution to the implementation of the Convention at all levels, Sri Lanka looks forward to serving as a member of the Victim Assistance Committee of the Convention for the period 2025-2026.

While being mindful of the on-going global challenges, Sri Lanka welcomes the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 which is built upon the success of the Oslo Action Plan, we firmly believe that the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan will be a road map for States Parties in the implementation and universalization of the Convention leading to the Sixth Review

Conference in 2029, while serving as the guiding document for the Ottawa Convention for the next five years.

Looking ahead, Sri Lanka envisions a future as outlined in the Siem Reap-Angkor Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2024 where every corner of our planet becomes a safe dwelling for humankind and our soil free from landmines.

We believe that strong international cooperation is a key to fulfilling the obligations under the Convention by all States Parties. Deploying advanced technologies, providing resources, and technical support, sharing best practices and expertise with affected States, particularly at regional level, will bring us closer to our collective goals.

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,

At this important forum, Sri Lanka calls upon all States Parties to renew their commitment to the Convention by condemning the use of anti-personnel mines and ensuring that mine action remains a priority in their development and humanitarian action plans.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka reaffirms its unwavering support for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Together, we can realize the promise of a mine-free world, where no community lives in fear of these indiscriminate weapons.

Thank you.