

Intersessional Meetings of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction

Geneva, 20 June 2025

Thank you, Madam President.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties. The Republic of Korea is pleased to participate in the Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as an observer. We also commend and congratulate the APMBC community on adopting the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan and Siem Reap-Angkor Declaration on a Mine-Free World at the Fifth Review Conference last year, marking a meaningful step toward the ultimate goal of a mine-free world.

Today, the Convention and its work are receiving growing global attention as the world grapples with an increasingly fragile and deteriorating security landscape. Heightened geopolitical tensions and protracted conflicts compel countries to navigate a delicate and often difficult balance between humanitarian commitments and security concerns.

Although the Republic of Korea has not yet acceded to the Convention due to its unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, we fully share the humanitarian objectives of the Convention and remains concerned about the humanitarian impact of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines.

My delegation would like to update you on our efforts to mitigate the suffering

caused by anti-personnel mines. The Republic of Korea has been on a steady path of anti-personnel mine clearance where possible. In 2024, we voluntarily removed 167 anti-personnel mines in adherence to the International Mine Action Standards. We are also exercising strict control over anti-personnel mines and have maintained an indefinite extension of the moratorium on their export since 1997. In a similar vein, the Republic of Korea has not installed any mines for several years.

For existing mines, we are undertaking all possible precautionary measures to protect civilians from the risks and effects of mines by including fencing, signs, warnings and monitoring. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has enacted the *Law on Mine Response Activities Including Mine Clearance* in 2024. Under this new law, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) will devise a basic mine action plan every five years and establish a Mine Response Activity Committee to deliberate on matters related to mine action activities. Furthermore, in accordance with the Special Act on the Support for Mine Victims, the ROK government has provided over 1.4 million USD in compensations and subsidies to persons and their surviving families affected by mine accidents between 1953 and 2012. As a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Amended Protocol II, the Republic of Korea actively participates in discussions and initiatives to promote the responsible use of mines.

The Republic of Korea remains committed to supporting mine victims through bilateral and multilateral efforts, including the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF), and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Since 1993, the ROK government has contributed over 90 million USD to support global mine action activities. Our assistance programs include the provision of

humanitarian demining training and equipment, rehabilitation and capacity building of the affected populations and communities.

To conclude, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to actively participate in international efforts for mine clearance and victim assistance, aiming to protect civilians from the harmful effects of anti-personnel mines.

I thank you, Madam President. /End/