

## **ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**26 FEBRUARY 2020**

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PRESIDENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

Mr President  
Excellencies  
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honour to address the Conference on Disarmament today in my capacity as President of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

This coming Sunday, the First of March marks the 21th anniversary of the entry into force for this landmark humanitarian and disarmament instrument. Twenty-one years is a significant period of time and therefore it is timely to pause and take stock of what has transpired during this period.

As we noted during the Fourth Review Conference last November, the anti-landmines movement continues progressing towards its goal. 164 States have now made a solid commitment to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, but of course, ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines means more than only achieving universal acceptance of the Convention. We must also make sure to clear all mined areas, destroy all stocks and assist the victims. Again, in twenty years since entry into force, significant progress has been made.

Mr. President

There are now 31 States Parties that have complied with their obligations to identify mined areas and to destroy all anti-personnel mines within these mined areas. In addition, one of the State Party namely the Republic of Chile has confirmed that it will conclude its mine clearance efforts in 2020. With respect to the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, since entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, together the States Parties have destroyed approximately 53 million stockpiled mines.

With respect to victim assistance the link between the Convention's promise to assist landmine survivors and the relevant human rights framework was strengthened through the Conventions interaction with legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities as well as with the health, education, and employment and development sectors.

Moreover, as one of the great leaders in this movement, Norway, led the work of the Fourth Review Conference last year which culminated in the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan which will guide States Parties in the implementation of the Convention over the course of the next 5 years.

Mr. President

Allow me to seize this opportunity to appeal to all members of the Conference of Disarmament that have not yet done so to join the Convention as soon as possible. In addition, I would ask all States to renew their efforts to implement the Convention. I will also be working closely with regional

organizations across the world to collaborate furthermore in the universalization of the Convention. To this end, the most recent initiative of the African Union for silencing the guns in African will pave the way for me to forge working relations with this important and vibrant organization during our presidency.

Our Convention is historic, and our progress has been tremendous, but more work need to be done. Let us work together to achieves our collective and ultimate goal of a world free of mine by 2025.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me make few remarks about my own country Sudan, first and for most allow me to express our thanks and gratitude for accepting the request of Sudan to join the Conference on Disarmament as an observer. As Sudan presides over the Convention on the Elimination of Anti-Personnel Mines, it's a step forward in Sudan's efforts towards disarmament.

Sudan is making efforts of Disarmament in our region, the bilateral collaboration between Sudan and Chad in clearance of landmines in the border areas. We are working on an agreement to be finalized soon.

As you may be aware Sudan recently witnessed political transformation, following a popular revolution called for freedom, peace and justice and was able to establish a transitional government. This government is determined to make fundamental positive changes in the country. Peace-making process has been launched as apriority with all armed groups and some agreements has been signed and the process is moving on.

The transitional government is working on opening humanitarian corridors through mine action, these efforts will help many areas to develop and prosper and will allow the safe return of those displaced due to previous conflicts back to their homes.

Let us continue our collective work closer to our ultimate goal in greater numbers and with a solid commitment that will be sustained until the job is completely done.

I thank you.