

Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intercessional meetings 8-9 June 2017

Mr. President, distinguished delegates ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to thank the organizers of the Intercessional Meetings of Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention. I wish to also thank Member States for their dedicated support to Afghanistan's mine action programme since 1989 when the programme was first established. Your unwavering support and tireless efforts as the mine action community, has directly saved the lives of countless men, women and children in my country.

Mr. President, Afghanistan remains steadfast in its commitment to the Ottawa Treaty and other mine action-related conventions to which it is a signatory, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Mr. President, Afghanistan congratulates Algeria on becoming mine free and achieving clearance before to its deadline and we highly appreciate the hard work of Implementation Support Unit (ISU), all the committees and the relevant organizations who tirelessly work towards a mine free world.

Mr. President, Afghanistan in its capacity as the next President of the State Parties on Anti Personnel Mine is pleased to announce that the next intercessional meetings and the 17 meeting of states parties will be held in Geneva on 7 and 8 of June 2018 and on 19 November, 2018 , respectively. I am also Pleased to inform you that we host a pledging conference as per the decision of the fourteen meeting of the States Parties in early 2018, the exact date will be announced in near future. We look forward to have you all in those meetings.

The Government of Afghanistan presents its compliments to all actors working to rid the world of mines and reiterates its gratitude to all the donors who have supported Afghanistan in its quest for the eradication of anti-personnel mines.