

**Intersessional Meetings
of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
7-8 June 2018**

Statements by the Kingdom of Belgium

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Madam President,

Belgium aligns itself with the statements delivered by the **European Union** and wishes to make the following remarks in her national capacity.

(mine clearance)

- Belgium remains **committed to our objective** of a world free of antipersonnel mines by 2025, but also a world free of new or unassisted mine victims.
- My Country urges all States Parties to **step up their efforts** to fulfill their obligations under the Convention ahead of the **Review Conference** in 2019.
- Belgium **condemns the use** by anyone, state or non-state actors, of antipersonnel mines, included the use of IEDs.
- My country is gravely concerned by the **increase in the number of mine victims**. According to the Landmine Monitor, the sharp increase observed in 2015 continued to rise in 2016. Belgium deplores also that the majority of casualties to be civilians hit by APMs.
- The rise in the number of victims has been particularly acute in **Irak and Syria** as a result of the heavy dissemination of improvise antipersonnel mines by Daesh that prevent the safe return of IDPs and hinders the reconstruction of whole regions.
- Belgium has been very active in the fight against IEDs and chaired a UN WG coordinated by UNMAS on the **development of UN IEDDS (Improvised Explosive Devices Disposal Standards)**. My country deems it important to provide for efficient, safe, and cost-effective solutions to counter the risk posed by improvised antipersonnel mines.

I thank you.