

Mongolia's Statement
at the Meetings of the Standing Committees established
by the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
20 June 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I wish to reiterate that Mongolia supports the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as its noble purpose and key principles totally accord with concept of Mongolia's foreign policy which states to ensure its national security through political and diplomatic means.

Mongolia has been actively engaging in and following the international endeavors against AP mines by supporting all relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including UN General Assembly resolution 51/45 S, and participating regularly in international fora on the Convention. It has been my Government's policy to lay the groundwork for accession via a step-by-step approach that involved amending legislation to allow release of the amount of the stockpile, starting the destruction of the stockpile, and securing funding for stockpile destruction.

Mongolia voluntarily submitted its initial national transparency report to the Secretary General of the United Nations under Article VII of the AP Mine Ban Convention in 2007 and has annually updated it. The report was submitted following the 2006 amendment to the State Secrecy Law which permitted Mongolia to make information on AP mines in its stockpiles publicly available.

Holding 206307 AP mines in its stockpiles, Mongolia continues to pursue a step-by-step (or phased) policy towards accession to the Convention due to a range of security and economic concerns. In this respect, I wish to inform that out of the 206417 stockpiled AP mines 110 AP mines were destroyed to define an appropriate mine destruction technique friendly for the environment.

Taking this opportunity, we wish to underline that the Government of Mongolia remains fully committed to make its contribution to the international efforts against AP mines and accede to the AP Mine Ban Convention by actively cooperating and conducting

practical dialogues with State Parties to the convention and as well as relevant international organizations. In this respect, it should be noted that visit of the Special Envoy on the Universalisation of the AP Convention, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussain of Jordan to Mongolia last October was an important event in taking further steps towards its accession to the Convention. Furthermore, during the official visit to Canada in October 2010 the Prime Minister of Mongolia re-affirmed Mongolia's commitment to an earliest accession to the Convention.

I Thank you