

Mr President,

Dear Representatives of State Parties,

Members of the United Nations, governmental and non-government organization,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all allow me to congratulate his Excellency Prak Sokhonn President of the Eleventh Meeting and Co-Chairs Ms. Dian and Ms. Catherine .

As you know, Sudan is a state party to the Ottawa Treaty since 2004 and has committed to meet Article 5 deadline by April 2014 . The Government of the Republic of Sudan is still committed to meet this deadline and to free the country from the impact of Anti-Personnel mines.

Over the past 8 years, Sudan Mine Action Program has succeeded in reducing the number of known hazards by approximately 85 percent . A total of 74 new hazards have been identified during 2011 . Around 294 known registered hazards are remaining to be cleared over the next 2 years. Of course, we understand that new hazards might be identified as new areas will become open for survey and clearance, but this number is not expected to be high. The current reality is that anti-personnel mine problem in Sudan is measurable and can be treated in a short time-frame to meet Sudan's Ottawa obligations on time, if the required fund is available.

Mr. President,

As a result of the separation of South Sudan the Number of our stockpile remained get decreased to 1938 item as reflected in Sudan Article 7 report for 2011.

The unstable security situations in Blue Nile (BN) and South Kordufan (SK) States has affected the demining operations, as we could not start any demining operations within these areas . It was planned to announce BN State as free of land mine impact by 2012. In addition to that, some of rebel groups had used limited number of AT mines during this war where accidents took place among civilians and military personnel resulted in 93 victims. To reduce this number of accidents Sudanese Army conducted survey and clearance operations on the new affected areas and removed all identified hazard items.

Therefore the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) has focused on the Eastern States and deployed all available demining assets to meet the planned targeted number of hazards in 2012. Hopefully a total of 150 hazards are expected to be cleared by the

end of June 2012. Besides that two MRE teams have been delivering MRE messages within South Kordofan and Blue Nile States to reduce the number of accidents and to raise awareness.

As you know, the amount of international support to the Sudan Mine Action community has been decreasing since the secession of South Sudan and the subsequent end of the mandate of United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). In order to meet the April 2014 deadline, Sudan will need at least 30 manual clearance teams per year of various types (mechanical ,dogs and manual) for the next 2 years.

We currently have only 9 NGOs & INGOs teams conducting humanitarian mine clearance.

The National Mine Action Centre, on behalf of the Government of Sudan urgently needs further international assistance in order to ensure that we meet our goals and declare Sudan Mine Impact Free within our current obligations of the Article 5 of Mine Ban Treaty. My delegation afraid that if the support does not come soon, we will unfortunately be obliged to apply for an extension to the current deadline , which we are trying to avoid.

On behalf of the Government of Sudan, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, donor governments and institutions for their previous and continuous assistance in ensuring that Sudan succeeds in getting rid of landmines. The Government of Sudan once again reiterates respect to its commitments and obligations when and wherever land mines are concerned.

Thanks you