

**Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

**First of all let me congratulate you and all of us on this occasion, and wish you all the success in your work which will save lives and remove pain of a humane somewhere in the world, and help them to integrate in the greater society.**

**Within the course of 30 years from the revolution to the period of civil confrontation in 1994 a large number of communities were affected by landmines.**

**Directly after the war in 94, the ministry of defense started dimining operation in three districts in the south of Yemen but after clearing some minefields unfortunately two accidents happened in the same area So the government decided to close the areas and establish the diminnig program and seek for the international support and to work according to the international standards.**

**Before the Impact Survey our priorities in work were completely different, as the Government had no information especially in the areas where mines were planted in early 60 and the surprise was that 13 of high impact communities are located in those areas. Mine victims were registered in the clinics and in the hospitals as accidents with clarifying its cuase, whether road or mine accidents. We did not know in what kind of terrain mined areas were located to decide on the type of equipment for clearance.**

**Wear is the high impacted districts, we did not know how many villages, arable lands, mountains, wells, roads, etc. were blocked and the question was where to start from.**

**With the successful completion of the Landmine Impact Survey, the government of Yemen is at present designing a realistic national plan for mine action. This plan will focus on the areas of high social and economic impact as identified by the Landmine Impact Survey and local needs. We are confident that the plan will meet the needs of the people**

**of Yemen and we trust that it will inspire donor confidence and support. Lately we conducted a field study with our partners, the Americans, for the possibility of using machincal means and dogs in clearance operations.**

**Yemen is sparing no efforts to put an end to the terror of mines that dose not discriminate between a Child, women Soldier, and Animals.**

**The mine action program has a great achievement in minefield clearance during the last two years by celebrating the graduation of the fourth company last week and clearing 20 minefields in three districts working according to the international standards. These have been handed over to the local authorities. However, we are facing one technical problem which is the movement of sand. We have this problem in two minefields in Aden. These two minefields have been closed for more than nine months with a view that the sand will shift but unfortunately this has not happened and in some places we know where the mines are but we can't reach them.**

**We have no solution for this problem at this moment and we are sure that we will face similar situation in other areas of Yemen in the future.**

**Now with the completion of the impact survey and soon having a comprehensive national plan, we hope that the international community support us to demonstrate that the landmine problem as solvable in years not decades.**

**Thank you and best wishes.**

**Mansour Al Azi  
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