

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Yemen was the first nation in the region to sign and ratify the Ottawa Convention. Yemen remains committed to the Ottawa Convention, and will comply with all treaty requirements. For example, a recent evaluation mission, and stockpile study reported that 85% of the Yemen stockpile of AP mines are destroyed. We hope the destruction of the last 15% will be done this year

In 2002, Yemen has 6 clearance units, and seven survey teams, - working in high impact communities in six governorates to make life safe for the villagers and families in these areas. Two new clearance units and all survey teams were trained and deployed in 2001.

We have cleared 36 mine fields, found and destroyed 69,427 mines, and UXO.

We have conducted a successful Mine Dog Trial and have begun to train Yemeni dog handlers. By the end of this year will have 3 dog teams of 12 dogs and dog handlers.

Mine Awareness teams and Survivor Assistance teams are working in all high-impact communities in Yemen.

Yemen is still working to complete the legislation which will result in national laws to prohibit the import, possession, transport and use of landmines. We hope such a law to be passed this year.

Yemen will continue to make the best effort to use all means to encourage countries in our region who have not signed the treaty to do so.

Yemen is most happy to have the honor of serving as co-chair of the Standing Committee for Clearance, Mine Awareness and

Mine Action Technology. and I look forward to working with you this year to make the world a safer place for all God's creatures. I am at your service if I can be of help, and it is my pleasure to invite anyone of you who is interested to visit Yemen and see our program and meet our team. Thank You.

Mansour Al Azi

Director of Yemen Mine Action Center

Co-chair of Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness,

Mine Action Technologies