

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.

My Government would like to commend the valuable and excellent work being done by the international community in the advocacy on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction for a mine free world. In a world ravaged by war and conflict, the untiring and determined efforts of the member states of the United Nations to bring about peace and stability are heartening.

Mr. Co-Chair,

As it was earlier recalled that in September 2004, the Royal Government had handed over to the UN Secretary General its letter of intent to accede to the Convention. I now have great pleasure in informing you Mr. Co-Chair and the distinguished gathering that the Convention has been submitted to the current session of the National Assembly of Bhutan for accession. I am confident that it will be approved in the coming weeks and we hope to deposit the instrument of accession by July this year.

As a peace loving country, Bhutan has always subscribed to the ideals of making the world at large a safer place for all human beings. We firmly believe that the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians rest with the governments and we would, therefore, like to assure our support and solidarity in working collectively with other Member States of the United Nations to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

Thank you