

Statement delivered by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Nepal in the Meeting of the Standing committees of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention on Universalization

21 June 2010

Madam Chair, Co-Chairs and Distinguished Colleagues  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to represent from Nepal in this meeting of the standing committees. Though Nepal has not yet become the state party of the Ottawa Convention but we are fulfilling the most of the obligations of the Ottawa Treaty. We want to express our commitment towards the treaty and we respect the humanitarian spirit of the treaty.

We have now cleared 31 mine fields out of 53 that were laid down by the Nepal Army during the decade-long conflict. We have planned to clear remaining mine fields by 2011. Nepal does not produce landmines.

Nepal has constituted a high level taskforce to study and evaluate the opportunities and liabilities of the treaty and it will submit a report in near future. In the taskforce, there are representative from different ministries. We have for the first time allocated budget for mine action program through Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) where there are funds from donors and Government of Nepal as well. A high level delegation from Nepal has participated in the Cartagena Summit last year.

We want to express our sincere thanks to UNMAT who is supporting Nepal Army for demining and we also want to thank GICHD for support. We once again want to reiterate our commitment towards the Ottawa Treaty and we are always in favor of mine free world. This is my presentation about status and update on accession of APMBT.

Thank You.