

## **Mongolian Policy on Use, Stockpile, Production, Transfer and Destruction of anti Personnel Mines**

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Mister Co-Chair  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear participants

I would like to greet and express my warm pleasure to all participants to the Standing Committee meetings on prohibition of APM use, stockpile, production, transfer and destruction. As a participant of Standing Committee Meetings, I am also very grateful for this opportunity to individuals who have been engaged activity with the APM issue and to share our views and thoughts on the subject.

Mongolia fully supports the international community's effort and initiatives undertaken on the Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpile, Production and Transfer of APMs and on their destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention. The Mongolian Government has paid a close attention to the Ottawa process ever since its inception and has actively participated in international forums and workshops.

The subject of APMs has been the topic of discussion of Government agencies, politicians, researchers and professionals, as well as military specialists. Due to particular considerations related to its national security and some specific circumstances of our country, Mongolia has not joined the Convention and declared its step by step approach towards signing it.

In October 2004, during an official visit to Canada, then-President of Mongolia Natsagiin Bagabandi discussed the question of Mongolia's accession to the Mine Ban Treaty and stated:

“Mongolia denounces the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of all types of landmines and supports the efforts undertaken by the international community to ban this dangerous and indiscriminate weapon. Mongolia has been pursuing a step-by-step approach on the issue of acceding to the Ottawa Convention. At the initial stage we focused on attending international conferences and seminars related to landmines, on training our landmine experts and studying the Ottawa Convention in conjunction to the specifics of our country. Now we are examining the conditions, time and expenses required for the destruction of the stockpiled APMs [antipersonnel mines] in possession of Mongolian Armed Forces.”<sup>1</sup>

In this framework, we fully appreciate significance of Convention and starting to formulate the plan, which will then be submitted to the Mongolian State Security Council

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by Natsagiin Bagabandi, then-President of Mongolia, during his visit to Canada, 23-28 October 2004.

for approval. As this plan, the Mongolian government plans to formulate a strategy to implement its step-by-step accession to the Mine Ban Treaty in 2008. As a first step, the ministries will initiate amendments to the Law on State Secrets, to exclude landmines (currently listed as a state secret) from the list and place details regarding the number of stockpiled antipersonnel mines in the public domain and international organizations.

Also, the government plans to submit a voluntary national transparency measures report, in accordance with Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, in response to UN General Assembly Resolution 58/53, which called upon non-States Parties to voluntarily submit such reports.

It is essential that Mongolia consider its economic realities in adopting Ottawa Convention. The Mongolian economy is in transition and its dependant upon few types of production with significant foreign assistance. The poverty, jobless, environmental pollution are emerging as destabilizing threat to our economy and national security in other hand. Thus, considering that our country has very limited source to destroy stockpiled mines and to create technologic bases, equipments to be involved Therefore, for us the cooperation, assistance and support through both bilateral channels and international organizations are fully appreciated.

Thank you very much for attention.  
Geneva, Switzerland, May 8, 2006