



**TENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES  
TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINE CONVENTION**

**Statement by Mr. Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Geneva, 29 November 2010**

Mr. President,

The Brazilian Delegation warmly congratulates you for your election. It is important to have such a high Albanian authority leading this year's Meeting of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Let me also take this opportunity to express our satisfaction in opening this year a Brazilian Embassy in Tirana.

As you are aware, Brazil has signed the Convention on the day it was opened for signature, in Ottawa, on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1997. We completed our ratification process in April 1999.

Since then, we have been strong supporters of this instrument, which has effectively banned a whole category of weapons and has enabled an enormous progress in victim assistance programs in numerous affected countries.

Brazil has never been affected by the scourge of anti-personnel mines. Even though my country produced and maintained in the past such kind of weapons in our military arsenals, we never resorted to their use anywhere. There has been no record ever of mine-affected areas or victims in Brazil.

It is important to recall that the marginal military interest of anti-personnel landmines in modern warfare is by far offset by its inherent indiscriminate effect in terms of victims. Anti-personnel landmines had to be banned. It was not sufficient to regulate its usage. That is, among other considerations, a reason for Brazil's support of the Convention.

We have always been particularly concerned with the possibility of establishing cooperation with interested partners in affected countries. Brazilian Armed Forces maintain specialized teams trained in destruction, recovery and neutralization of explosives and unexploded ordnance. Over the past decade, these teams have been working in humanitarian demining missions, particularly in

Central and South America, under programs under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS).

In 2010, we had the satisfaction to congratulate other countries that helped bring about the successful conclusion of the Demining Assistance Mission in Central America. We are particularly pleased that this mission was officially completed on May 27<sup>th</sup> in Nicaragua and that Central America can now be considered a landmine-free region. Brazilian officers have taken part in this effort, which has made contaminated land available back to productive uses.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, we also completed a new cooperating experience, by means of which two Brazilian instructors spent a year in Benin, at the CPADD (Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions post-confliktuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution). These instructors' major task was to translate to Portuguese and adapt instruction material used in courses given at that center. The main objective of the initiative was to enable that center to offer courses to Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

Mr. President,

Alongside our work on cooperation, Brazil fully complies with all other obligations of the Convention. We have destroyed all stocks of anti-personnel landmines ahead of our deadline. We regularly submit our annual Article 7 reports and we have adopted extensive internal legislation regarding the prohibitions contained in the Convention. As our yearly reports faithfully reflect, a number of mines kept in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention is regularly consumed during the military training of Brazilian demining officers.

Brazil is pleased that a number of countries have submitted their reports on a voluntary basis, but it is still a matter of concern to us that other countries have repeatedly failed to comply with this important transparency measure.

Another matter of concern to us is the fact that so many countries have found it necessary to require deadline extensions regarding their obligation to clear mine-affected areas. We would like to encourage these countries to hand detailed progress reports on such clearance efforts and a firm commitment on their part to realistically estimate what remains to be done.

With regard to universalization, Brazil attaches great importance to this issue, and we welcome recent announcements such as those made by Finland, Poland and Lao PDR regarding their upcoming accession to the Convention.

Mr. President,

Brazil has taken part in the Task Force established to develop the terms of reference to evaluate the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention. We welcome the report of the Task Force and we look forward to participate in the open-ended working group that will discuss the financing model of the ISU in the upcoming year.

I thank you.