

NEW VERSION

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Luvsantseren Orgil, The Head of Mongolian delegation to
the Tenth Meeting of the State Parties
To the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti- Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (10MSP)
29 November to 3 December, Geneva, Switzerland)

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished participants.

On behalf of the Mongolian delegation, I would like to welcome you Mr. President and congratulate you on your election. We also wish to convey our warm greetings to the UN for co-hosting this important activity and also thank the Government of Switzerland for its hospitality.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for its excellent organization of the Tenth Meeting.

Dear Participants,

First, I would like to underline that we, Mongolians deeply empathize the human sufferings caused by anti-personnel mines and fully support the global endeavors for achieving a world free of mines. Therefore, we strongly believe that the universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mines Ban Convention is of vital importance to this end.

The Mongolian Government has paid a close attention to this process ever since its inception and since then Mongolia has been actively engaged in and closely followed the international endeavors against AP mines by supporting all relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including UN General Assembly resolution 51/45 S, and has participated regularly in international fora and workshops on the Convention, including the 1997 Ottawa Conference and the 2004 and 2009 Summits on a Mine-Free World and meetings of the States Parties to the Convention.

I would like to reiterate that the Government of Mongolia fully supports the noble purpose and humane principles of the Ottawa Convention and firmly denounces the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of antipersonnel mines.

Up to now, Mongolia has pursued a step-by-step (or phased) policy towards the issue of accession to the Convention due to a range of security and economic concerns.

It is my pleasure to highlight that, a number of measures have been taken as our step by step approach.

In December 2006, The Mongolian Parliament adopted an amendment to the Law on State Secrecy to promote our transparency and made public some detailed information regarding the number of stockpiled antipersonnel mines.

Also, let me note that Mongolia voluntarily submitted its initial national transparency report to the Secretary General of the United Nations under Article VII of the AP Mine Ban Convention in October 2007 and has annually updated it.

In July 2009, Mongolia invited technical experts from GICHD Implementation Support Unit to investigate technical quality of our mine stocks.

In October 2010, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan, President's Special Envoy paid a successful visit to Mongolia and had formal discussions with the Prime Minister S.Batbold; with the Head of the Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy of the State Great Khural Z.Enkhbold, and the Chief of Mongolian Armed Forces general-lieutenant Ts.Bayambajav to exchange views regarding our step-by-step position to the Convention.

Currently, Mongolia has 206317 Russian-type AP mines in its stockpiles. Last year one hundred AP mines from the stockpiles were destroyed to define an appropriate mine destruction technique friendly for the environment. Also, I would like to announce that next year we will destroy another 380 APMs to demonstrate our step-by-step approach to join the Convention.

As a future consideration, we are drafting a collaborative interagency action plan to implement its step-by-step accession to the AP Mine Ban Convention, which will coordinate activities of our relevant agencies, and to create a legal, financial and technological foundation for it.

The Ministry of Defense has also drafted an amendment to the Law on Explosives to promote our activity and control on explosives, mines and IED.

Finally, let me underline that Mongolia seeks to accede to the AP Mines Ban Convention in the near future.

Therefore, cooperation, assistance and support through both bilateral channels and international organizations are appreciated for accelerating the process of our accession to the AP Mine Ban Convention.

As you know, the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014, adopted at the 2009 Summit on a Mine-Free World, declared that States Parties to the Convention will not discriminate against or among mine victims, or between mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. We seek to benefit from this opportunity as Mongolia, in general, is in lack of availability of services for its increased number of persons with disabilities.

At the end, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia let me say that Mongolia shall not transfer, acquire or place land mines and welcomes the aspirations of the Cartagena action plan which is an important event in assessing the Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpile, Production and Transfer of APMs and on their destruction.

In conclusion, I would like to request your valuable assistance in supporting our efforts towards accession to the Convention.

Thank you for your attention.