

Check Against Delivery

**Statement at the 11th Meeting of the State Parties
to the Ottawa Convention
by Mr. Kang Yong
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Phnom Penh, November 2011

Mr. President,

It is my honor to attend the 11th Meeting of the State Parties to the Ottawa Convention. I am glad to see that H.E. Prak Sokhonn presides over the meeting in person, which reflects the great importance that the Government of Cambodia attaches to the landmine issue. I am convinced that with your outstanding capabilities and wisdom, you will surely guide our meeting to achieve positive outcome. Meanwhile, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Government of Cambodia for every efforts it has made for the meeting as the host.

Mr. President,

Since its entry into force in 1999, the Ottawa Convention has made an important contribution to addressing the humanitarian concerns caused by Anti-Personnel Landmines (APLs). The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the humanitarian concerns caused by APLs, and supported the efforts of the international community to resolve these concerns. China has not yet joined the Convention, due to its concern on reasonable national defence needs. Although not a state party to the Convention, China endorses the purposes and objectives of the Convention, and appreciates the humanitarian spirit reflected therein. In recent years, China has participated in all meetings of State Parties to the Convention and other relevant activities, and has consistently voted in favor of the resolution on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention at the UN General Assembly, which reflects China's position and attitude on the Convention.

As one of the High Contracting Parties to the Amended Protocol on Landmines (Amended Protocol II) of the CCW, China has always faithfully fulfilled its obligations under the protocol. Since the 1990s, China has conducted large-scale demining activities in the border areas, and has on the whole eliminated the scourge of landmines in our territories. The Chinese military forces have destroyed and disposed of

numerous old and out-dated APLs which did not meet the technical requirements of the Protocol, and developed equipments for the destruction and dismantling of landmines in an effort to improve the technology for destruction. China will continue to abide by its commitment on not exporting APLs.

Mr. President,

Since 1998, the Chinese Government has actively participated in the international demining assistance. Through various forms such as donation of funds, hosting technical training courses, providing demining equipments, victim assistance, direct demining and on-site demining guidance, the Chinese Government has provided nearly 40 developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America with demining assistance valued at over 60 million RMB, including training more than 400 demining technicians, guiding the clearance of mine area of over 20 thousand square meters. This year, the Chinese Government organized technical training courses on humanitarian demining for Sri Lanka, Sudan and South Sudan, and trained 50 demining technicians in total. The Chinese Government also provided the Laos, Peru and Ethiopia with mine victim assistance this year. The Chinese Government is willing to continue its cooperation with the recipient countries and relevant international organizations in conducting such kind of humanitarian assistance.

China highly values the important role that relevant international organizations play in humanitarian area. While faithfully fulfilling the obligations under the Amended Protocol II of CCW, China is also actively engaged in international cooperation and exchange in humanitarian area. China actively participates in activities of Landmine Supporting Group, and keeps itself updated about international landmine action. China maintains good communication and cooperation with UNMAS, including having in-depth discussions on humanitarian demining standards. This year, China sent experts to join a training course provided by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining(GICHD), and is considering of introducing the electronic

management system for humanitarian demining. China attaches great importance to the role that the International Committee of Red Cross(ICRC) plays in the humanitarian demining assistance, and keeps regular exchange with ICRC. In addition, China keeps close contact with NGOs which have great impact in humanitarian area, including ICBL, and mutual understanding are enhanced between China and those NGOs.

Mr. President,

China is ready to further strengthen exchange and cooperation with the State Parties to the Convention, relevant international agencies and NGOs, with an aim to promote international mine actions, to contribute to the reduction of civilian casualties caused by APLs and to the progress of economic and social development in the regions and countries concerned.

Thank you, Mr. President.