## Statement by

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At the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention On Agenda Item 10 B: Clearing Mined Areas

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1 December 2011

Mr. President,

Since the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to join other delegations in congratulating Cambodia for the election as the President of the Eleventh Meetings of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance, this meeting will achieve its noble objectives and expectations. We wish to convey our appreciation to the Government and people of Cambodia for the warm hospitality accorded to us and the excellent arrangement of the meeting.

Allow me also to congratulate H.E. Gazmend Turdiu of Albania, President of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties, for his excellent task in advancing the Convention.

The convening of this Meeting in Phnom Penh is timely and fitting. Cambodia's experience in overcoming the severe impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and its remarkable achievements are valuable lessons that can be shared with all the participants at this Meeting.

Mr. President,

We might recall that at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties last year, there were 16 States Parties that had completed the implementation of Article 5. To date, there are 18 State Parties which had fulfilled its clearance obligations under the Convention.

Under this particular agenda item, we have listened carefully the statements made by States Parties in implementing Article 5. We appreciate the reports of States Parties, whose Article 5 deadline already expired on 1 March 2009, suspected to be contaminated with anti-personnel mines.

In keeping the spirit of implementing this Convention, it is worth to consider in the near future that a State Party having mined areas suspected containing antipersonnel mines be required to solicit a new deadline under a Special Article 5 deadline procedure. This issue can be further discussed and considered at the 2012 Standing Committee on Mine Clearance and the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties in December 2012.

Challenges remain ahead in ensuring all mined areas are made safe for normal human activity. This can be achieved by having a strong commitment of the affected mine states and strengthening international cooperation and assistance, as outlined in the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014.