



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

*12 Meeting of States Parties to the Anti Personnel Landmine
Convention*

Statement by
Ambassador Remigiusz A. HENCZEL
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva
(deputy head of delegation)

Geneva, 3 December 2012

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Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
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Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating You on Your election as the President of the Twelve Meeting of States Parties to this Convention.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor and pleasure to announce that Poland is joining the Anti Personnel Landmine Convention. The President of the Republic of Poland has signed the appropriate documents and soon ratification papers will be deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations. This happens also to my personal satisfaction as I have had an opportunity to lead the process while heading the Legal and Treaty Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Poland has signed the Convention in 1997 and consequently since 1998 does not produce, export nor use in military operations anti personnel landmines and since 2003 voluntarily reports in accordance with the provisions of the article 7, thus *de facto* fulfilling most important obligations stemming from the Convention.

The remaining 2 hundred thousand AP mines were taken off the Polish Armed Forces inventory already in 2010. In the meantime we have managed to destroy already 97 per cent of the original stocks. Poland does not intend to retain even a limited number of AP mines allowed under provisions of the article 3. There are no identified or suspected areas contaminated with mines in our country.

Mr. President,

From now on Poland is bound by all provisions of the Ottawa Convention and will be fulfilling its obligations. We are also ready to actively participate in endeavors promoting adherence to the Convention and its humanitarian impact. This includes sharing our experiences in AP mines stocks destruction.

Let me use this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Convention's Secretariat, European Union Member States and all States Parties engaged in universalization efforts and first of all to the Polish Red Cross and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines for their continued support in the lengthy but successful process of Poland's accession.

Thank you Mr. President.

At this occasion I have the pleasure to invite all delegations to attend the reception which I will host in the Polish Permanent Mission on Wednesday 5th December at 7 pm. The invitations have been distributed in the room.