



STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION, SANTIAGO, CHILE

30 November 2016

Mr. President,

May I congratulate you on behalf of the South African delegation on your Chairmanship of this, the 15th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. My delegation would like to commend you for all the work you have put into the preparation of this meeting. We look forward to constructive discussions, and I can assure you of my delegation's full cooperation throughout these proceedings.

Mr. President

The Mine Ban Convention has been a laudable success story in the development of international diplomacy, humanitarian law and disarmament. The global reach of the treaty is impressive and the record and effectiveness of treaty implementation has contributed to the stigmatisation of the use of anti-personnel mines.

Mr. President

South Africa has always highlighted the challenges of mine victims which include among others: reintegration, inadequate medical emergency and on-going medical care services, lack of accessibility to some victims (especially in remote areas), lack of physical and psycho-social support, discrimination in the job market and other related challenges which stymies their ability to enable them to lead normal lives. The care for these victims should be a long term commitment of States. These actions will ensure that victims of mines are able to fully and effectively integrate and participate in society.

Mr. President

International cooperation and assistance remains the basis for the success of the Convention as this is key for full and effective implementation of the Convention. South Africa wishes to express that effective implementation will be facilitated if States Parties in a position to do so are able to implement their assistance obligations.

Mr. President

We hope that this 15th Meeting of States Parties will enable States to carefully plan the way forward and will provide additional impetus to implement the Maputo Action Plan, which will bring us closer to our goal of a world-free of mines.

I thank you.