

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and immense privilege for me to address you at this 16th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on behalf of ITF Enhancing Human Security.

ITF is proud to be part of the mine action community and recognizes all the work that has been achieved in the 20 years since the signing of the Convention. Being one of the most universal treaties, it shows the dedication of the international community towards the ban on the use, stockpiling production and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

With mine clearance, mine victim assistance, mine risk education, and advocacy, we are all making the world a safer place. We cannot stress the utmost importance of mine action, as every removed mine represents a potential victim.

Unfortunately, despite the significant achievements, mine contamination continues to pose a serious threat to the civilian population in far too many countries around the globe. ITF believes that the remainder of the clearance and other mine action work can only be done with sufficient funding and strong partnerships.

ITF will be celebrating its own 20th anniversary next year and continues to stand committed to clearance, assistance to mine victims and other related activities in the future. We honor the achievements that have been done so far with the generous support of our donors. During nearly 20 years of implementing projects and programs, ITF has raised over 428 million dollars, which were, among others, used to clear over 139 million square meters of mine-contaminated land in South East Europe, Middle East and South Caucasus, and help 1,277 mine survivors receive the necessary medical rehabilitation. Our extensive experience in capacity building is also immensely important for developing local ownership and the transition of full responsibility to mine affected countries.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who have supported and contributed to our work, primarily our donors and partners. We believe

that working closely together is the only way to achieve our joint mission for a “Landmine Free 2025”. Thank you.