

17a Reunião de Estados Partes da Convenção sobre a Proibição de Minas Antipessoais

Intervenção Debate Geral

Madam President,

Let me first congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the 17th Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. You can count on the full support of the Brazilian delegation in conducting this meeting.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a hallmark in the international efforts to mitigate humanitarian suffering, save lives and preserve human dignity through the restriction of methods and means of warfare which are not compatible with international humanitarian law and principles. Brazil has supported the Convention from its beginning, has been one of the first States to sign it and is a Party since 1999, when it entered into force.

We acknowledge with satisfaction the fact that 164 States are already Parties to the Convention and emphasize the importance of its universalization in order to fully achieve its ultimate goal, a world without anti-personnel landmines. We therefore urge all States still outside the Convention to exert every effort to accede to it as soon as possible.

Madam President,

Brazil has no mined fields or contaminated areas, as we have not been part of a conflict for over a century. However, we keep a permanent capacity for humanitarian demining, in order to maintain preparedness in general, participate in UN mandated peace missions, and provide international cooperation.

The Brazilian Armed Forces maintain permanent specialized teams on the destruction, recovery and neutralization of explosives and unexploded

ordnance, charged with cleaning areas used in military trainings. Brazil keeps therefore a reduced number of stockpiles for training purposes only, in accordance with article 3, and which are dully informed in our annual national reports. Demining training is essential to maintain and expand existing capacities in humanitarian demining, including in order to offer assistance to other States, and will remain a necessity as long as there are minefields in the world.

Madam President,

International cooperation is one of the pillars of the Convention, to which Brazil gives particular importance. Brazil has a long history in humanitarian demining. Since 1994, over 370 Officers from the Brazilian Army and Navy have participated in demining operations, most notably in South- and Central America, as well as in Africa, under the aegis of the UN and of the Organization of American States.

One particular priority of Brazil in this field is the training of national experts, both civilian and military, in humanitarian demining techniques. By internalizing the capacity to conduct demining operations, training has a multiplier effect, strengthening national institutions and ownership of the clearing process. Brazil has supported training in humanitarian demining in, among other States, Angola, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique. This past February, Brazil and Colombia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at increasing the already robust cooperation on this field.

Madam president,

We take note of the desire of some Member States to explore so-called “synergies” or complementarities between the Convention and other instruments which deal with different categories of explosive weapons. While we have no qualms over voluntary cooperation between States with regard to what they see as similar obligations under different conventions, we must strongly caution against attempts to formalize any such cooperation between Conventions themselves. Ignoring the different memberships, rights and obligations under different instruments can lead to

confusion and eventually undermine the edifice upon which instrument rests.

Madam President,

We take note of the reports, conclusions and recommendations presented by the Convention's four committees, and commend all coordinators for their efforts and the excellency of the work carried out. In particular, Brazil acknowledges the request by Ukraine for an extension of the deadline to complete the destruction of land-mines under article 5 of the Convention. Brazil congratulates all parties involved in the discussions to sort out the obstacles first presented and highlights that cooperation and dialogue are the most effective tools to resolve controversies on the implementation of the Convention.

Lastly, Brazil reiterates its support to the Conference and its Review Mechanism, in particular the Maputo Action Plan, and the goal to complete demining effort under the Convention until 2025. We look forward to the discussions ahead.

I thank you