



Republic of Hungary

Statement by Ambassador Dr. András Tóth
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Zagreb, 28 November – 2 December 2005

Madame President! Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties. We highly appreciate the willingness of the Republic of Croatia to host the annual meeting of states parties in a severely mine-affected region, and the first to take place in South East Europe.

Hungary fully subscribes to the statement made by the United Kingdom's Presidency of the European Union. We have been supporting the common assistance activities of the European Union, especially its "European Roadmap to a Zero Victim Target" strategy for the years 2005-07, to which my country is ready and willing to contribute.

Madame President!

Hungary attaches great importance to the efforts being exercised against the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and to their destruction. We are all too well aware of the dangers of these dreadful weapons and of the immeasurable suffering they have brought about to millions of people, military and civilian, on four continents. This is why we think that victim assistance is becoming one of the leading purposes of our concerted efforts.

We have witnessed the devastation caused by these treacherous weapons from a close range, in our immediate neighbourhood, during the conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. This is why Hungary considers regional co-operation so important and why it is ready to facilitate this co-operation.

Since 1999, my country has been providing financial assistance for land mine destruction and demining activities each consecutive year. This assistance has reached various countries in need, including Afghanistan, where we participated in maintaining hospitals in 2003. Hungary also supported the Executive Branch of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Hungarian support provided for the purposes of the Ottawa Convention amount to USD 240.000 since 1999.

Madame President! Ladies and Gentlemen!

As it is well known, Hungary was among the first States to join the Ottawa Convention and to ratify it in 1998. As an obligation to each State Party, Hungary has destroyed its entire stockpile of anti-personnel mines by the year 1999, retaining only 1500 mines for the purposes of scientific research under Article 3, paragraph 1.

It is my privilege and pleasure to announce now that according to Action 54 of the Nairobi Action Plan, Hungary has voluntarily completed the destruction of all of its anti-personnel land mines retained under Article 3 as of 14 October this year.

I do believe, Madame President that other States Parties will be ready to follow our modest contribution to our final goal, a mine free world.

I thank you, Madame President.