

MALAYSIA

STATEMENT TO THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
OTTAWA CONVENTION IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Members

MR. PRESIDENT, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN.

A VERY GOOD MORNING / AFTERNOON TO ALL OF YOU.

I AM HONOURED TO LEAD THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO THIS MEETING. MALAYSIA REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATING TO THE INSIDIOUS LAND MINE. SINCE THE CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE, WE HAVE WITNESSED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. MALAYSIA IS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT MORE STOCKPILED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED; A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LAND CLEARED OF MINES; AND MINES ACTION FUNDING INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY EVERY YEAR. ADDITIONALLY AWARENESS AGAINST THE USAGE OF MINES HAS

IMPROVED TREMENDOUSLY.. WE HOPE THAT THESE POSITIVE TRENDS WILL CONTINUE. WITH CONTINUOUS EFFORTS BY GOVERNMENTS, UN AGENCIES AND NGOS, MALAYSIA IS CONFIDENT THAT UNIVERSALISATION OF THE CONVENTION IS POSSIBLE.

MALAYSIA IS COMMITTED TO THE ATTAINMENT OF A UNIVERSAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND IS PROUD TO BE ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN THE REGION TO BE PARTY TO THIS CONVENTION. MALAYSIA WAS THE CO-CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE

DESTRUCTION FOR THE PERIOD 2000 – 2001. AT THE FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES, MALAYSIA WAS APPOINTED AS ONE OF THE 'FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR'. WE HAVE COMPLETED STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION IN 2001 AND ARE ^{IN} THE PROCESS TO BECOMING THE FIRST MINE-FREE COUNTRY IN ASIA. MALAYSIA'S DECISION NOT TO RETAIN ANY ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES EVEN FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT. IN THIS REGARD WE COMMEND OTHER STATES THAT HAVE GONE BEYOND ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONVENTION.

MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA ON THE ISSUE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES. WE CONTINUE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSALISATION OF THE CONVENTION. WE DESIRE THAT IT BE PLACED HIGH ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA. WE SUPPORT THE DISCUSSION ON THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ISSUE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL TO COMPLEMENT EFFORTS TO UNIVERSALIZE THE CONVENTION. MALAYSIA RECOGNIZES THAT THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION HAS THE HIGHEST

NUMBER OF NON-SIGNATORIES. MALAYSIA HAS CALLS UPON ALL NON-STATE PARTIES IN THE REGION TO CEASE TO USE, DEVELOP AND PRODUCE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IMMEDIATELY, AND TO MOVE TOWARDS BECOMING MINE-FREE COUNTRIES.

MALAYSIA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL, IN COMBATING THE SCOURGE OF THIS WEAPON. ON THAT NOTE, MALAYSIA COMMENDS

THE GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD), THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LAND MINES (ICBL), THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) AND OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR STRONG AND SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTER-SESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND THE OVERALL CONSOLIDATION OF THE CONVENTION. MALAYSIA SUPPORTS SUCH JOINT EFFORTS TO PUT ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES INTO EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS THAT WILL SHAPE A MEANINGFUL RESPONSE TO MINE VICTIMS AROUND THE WORLD.

ALL CURRENT LEVELS OF MINE ACTION FUNDING MALAYSIA IS CONCERNED THAT MANY MINE-AFFECTED STATES MAY ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE TEN-YEAR DEADLINE FOR MINE CLEARANCE. FURTHERMORE, THE NUMBER OF LANDMINE VICTIMS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE CONTINUES TO INCREASE. MALAYSIA THUS BELIEVES THAT A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO VICTIM ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PUT IN PLACE.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST LANDMINES CANNOT BE DEEMED COMPLETE UNTIL WE ACHIEVE A CONDITION OF "ZERO MINES" AND "ZERO VICTIM". THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST UTILIZE ALL AVAILABLE MEANS AND RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. WE MUST STEP-UP OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE OTTAWA CONVENTION CONTINUES TO STRIVE AND BECOME EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT THAT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS AFFECTED BY ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES.

THANK YOU.