



Government of Uganda

Statement by

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Leader of Delegation to the 7th Meeting of States Parties

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Honourable President, Your Excellencies, Members of States Parties, Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen. I wish, on behalf of my delegation to convey to you Madam President our congratulations upon your election to preside over this 7th meeting of States Parties.

The Government of Uganda is taking mine action seriously and is building infrastructure to respond. The Mine Action Programme is young in Uganda but has an important role in the early peace initiatives taking place as I speak and within the development of the country. I am pleased to state that mine action has integrated further with the return of the internally displaced persons. Uganda has made a slogan of "mine action for a safe and protected return." What is the importance of water points if people can not access them and how do we not create a segregated society in areas of return for landmine victims. The answer is mine action...mine action as a pre-requisite to return of 1.8 million internally displaced persons...mine action as part of the peace building process and a tool of development.

There is a vision in Mine Action that by 2009 there will be an established residual capacity to manage the still existing threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war. This residual capacity will consist of an efficient mine action centre, at least six multi purpose technical survey, clearance and explosive ordnance disposal teams. Mine Action is a national programme and will, in addition to clearing mines in northern Uganda, also promote mine risk education and the other pillars of mine action in all other affected areas in the country. It is therefore, planned that a minimum of two mine risk education teams can assist in building messages for the country, where ever the threat exists.

There are plans that the National Mine Action Programme should be ISO certified in 2007 and all work will be based on the national mine action policy, legislation and standards. All three legal documents are currently in draft forms using an integrated and participatory approach.

Madam President, I bring your attention to the fact that since the last reporting of States Parties humanitarian teams have been trained to international standards and two teams have been fielded. An additional two teams are at refresher training and will be operational before the end of October.

Needs assessment have been completed in the Districts of Soroti and Lira in July 2006. A technical survey and clearance in the District of Kabermaido has been complete and is waiting to be handed over as safe land to communities when quality control teams are operational. A technical survey and needs assessment has just been initiated in Lira which is an area of return and resettlement of the internally displaced population.

Capacity continues to be developed with the government ministries, mine action operators and landmine survivors. The information management system for mine action 4.0 has been field tested in Uganda and now fully installed with several mine action operators, within the Mine Action Centre and within one Ministry. This sharing of data and exchange of information is vital to the integrated model of mine action in Uganda.

Ms. President, The Government of Uganda desires to be in compliance and is making every effort to build capacity and understanding towards the Ottawa Convention and the Nairobi Action Plan. Quality assurance is planned for to provide land release and additional teams and needs assessments required in both northern and western Uganda. The Government of Uganda desires mine action dog teams and quality control teams no later than 2007.

The mine action programme has been initiated in a good way and is integrating with other development and emergency programmes. There is an action, the recently signed "Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army/Movement which has raised the urgency of destruction of all anti personnel and explosive remnants of war. For the return and resettlement of internally displaced persons, two pre-requisites are required. One is a peace agreement and the second is expanded mine action.

Mine Action in Uganda is working to integrate mine action into the relevant government agencies for full commitment and sustainability to the Mine Ban Treaty. By 2009 it is hoped that the reduction of death and injury is reduced by 80% and that known landmines and explosive remnants of war have been destroyed. Uganda also proposes that mine action is further integrated into both plans and budgets within the national humanitarian, development and reconstruction frameworks. At the first birthday of the National Mine Action Programme, the first national budget line was opened for some pillars of mine action by the Joint Monitoring Committee in 2007.

The major stockpile was destroyed in 2003 and at present the types and quantities of mines for training purposes are being monitoring.

Numbers	Type
584	POMZ 2
500	PMN
161	PMD-1
121	OZM-3
231	PMA-1
200	Nr413
1	T-7z

The destruction of the following types and quantity have occurred since the last meeting.

Type destroyed	Quantity destroyed
Pomz 2	40
PMN	20
PMD-1	11
OZM-3	16
PMA 1	14
NR 413	31
T 72	70

Uganda assures you that humanitarian mine action work will continue. We are committed and priority is being given to mine action.

For God and My Country

Thank you