

ჟენევაში გაეროს განყოფილებასთან და
სხვა საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციებთან
საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA GÉORGIE AUPRÈS
DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES ET DES AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENÈVE

TEIMURAZ BAKRADZE
Minister Plenipotentiary

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 18-22 September 2006

Statement by Georgia

Information concerning anti-personnel mines

- ~~Although~~ Georgia shares the principles and objectives of the Ottawa Convention it is not a state-party to it. Over the years one of the principle reasons for not accession to the convention has been the existence of the territories uncontrolled by the central authorities of the state and therefore, incapability to fulfill the obligations put forward in the convention. However, it has to be mentioned, that discussions concerning the possibility of reconsideration of the above-stated position have started.
- We wish to underline once again, that despite the fact, that Georgia has not acceded to the Ottawa Convention so far, it has expressed support for the global ban on anti-personnel mines on several occasions, the country fully shares the concern of the international community regarding the challenge of this type of weapon. Georgia is convinced that the negative impact of landmines far outweigh their military value and tries to make its possible contribution in facilitation the process of elimination and eradication of this threat.
- We would like to underscore, that Georgia has voted in favor of every annual UN General Assembly resolution supporting a ban on anti-personnel mines since 1996, including UNGA resolution 60/80 in December 2005 and is intended to continue to vote in favor of it in future.
- Georgia is a party to "the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects" of 1980 [and its original Protocol II], though it has not ratified Amended Protocol II for the same reason as the Ottawa Convention.
- Since Georgia gained independence in 1991 it has never produced, exported or imported anti-personnel mines, furthermore, In September 1996 Georgia

declared moratorium on production, use, export and import of anti-personnel landmines and since that time corresponding official structures of Georgia have been strictly refraining from use of anti-personnel mines. We wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm my country's intention to keep the above-mentioned commitment in future. In recent years the South Osetian separatists accused the Georgian side in mining the territories in conflict area, however, it must be stressed, that all allegations of that sort do not reflect the real picture – the Georgian Armed Forces and other relevant structures strictly follow the declared moratorium.

- The majority of mined areas that currently exist on the territory of Georgia are mainly located in conflict zones on the territory of secessionist regions of Abkhazia and former South Osetia, as well as around existing and disbanded Russian and former Soviet military bases.
- Responsibility for mine clearance in military zones and military bases is entrusted to the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, whereas the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for populated areas including roads and railroads, since the Department of State Border Guards was included into the structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, this agency is responsible for mine clearance in border areas as well. The special engineering unit was created within the structure of the Georgian Armed Forces and demining is one of the main tasks of this unit. Recently the MOD of Georgia conducted clearance of Vaziani military Base near Tbilisi, territory of which was mined by the Russian forces. Demining activities on the territory of Abkhazia have been implemented by organization "The Hallo Trust" and in 2005 the Gali region of secessionist autonomous republic was declared Mine Impact Free, as for the territory of former South Osetia no serious mine clearance activities have been conducted there.
- There was an intention to establish a permanent working group on landmines by the National Security Council of Georgia, but due to recent reorganization

of the Council the issue is still open. Nevertheless, We hope that the establishment of such working group will be completed in foreseeable future.

- Georgia clearly recognizes the serious challenges that still remain before us and emphasize, once again, the adherence of our country to the idea of mine free world and its readiness for cooperation with all interested parties, certainly within its existing powers.