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

**STATEMENT BY COLONEL CH. SOSORBARAM,
CHIEF OF THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT
AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE,
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF MONGOLIA**

Geneva, September 21, 2006

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for hosting this meeting as well as to the United Nations and GICHD for all their efforts made for the successful organization of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. On behalf of the Government of Mongolia I would like to congratulate Your Excellency, Madam President, to your election as the President of the Meeting and wish you a great success in this honorable task.

I am pleased to inform that Mongolia welcomes the effort of the international community as well as the progress and achievements made towards the realization of the provisions of the Convention.

On many occasions since the commencement of the Ottawa Convention, Mongolia expressed its support for the principles and humanitarian objective of the Convention. In October 2004, during his official visit to Canada, the President of Mongolia expressed Mongolia's willingness to accede to the Ottawa Convention on the basis of a step-by-step approach. In its Action Plan for the period 2004-2008, the Government of Mongolia set an objective of joining the Convention by 2008 by means of taking a gradual approach.

As the number and location of mines are currently listed as a state secret, the draft of the amendment to the State Secrecy Law of Mongolia, which would exclude them from the list and make the data about stockpiled anti-personal mines accessible to the general public and international community, has been formulated jointly by the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and submitted for consideration to the National Security Council of Mongolia. Such steps would make possible the submission of national reports to the UN General-Secretary.

In conclusion, I would like to note that Mongolia is ready to collaborate with the States Parties of the Convention and international organizations engaged in this endeavor on the assessment of the conditions of landmines as well as on the issues of their destruction. Also, I am pleased to reassure that Mongolia is supporting the universalisation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Thank you for your attention.