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**Statement by Dr. Haji Ismail Ahmad  
Head of Malaysian Delegation to  
The Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to  
The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Productions and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines  
and on their Destruction**

Mr President H.R.H. Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Husseini,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Malaysian delegation. Allow me first to congratulate Your Highness on your assumption of the chairmanship as the President of Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention.

I also congratulate Mr. Ayman Al-Amery on his assumption of the Secretary-General Designate, and the Government of Jordan for hosting this important meeting in the Middle East for the first time.

Mr President,

On this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the adoption of the Convention, Malaysia reaffirms its continuous commitment in addressing the issues relating to the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Productions and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Malaysia is very encouraged by the increased in the number of States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the 7<sup>th</sup>

Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva last year. Malaysia also welcomes Indonesia, Iraq and Kuwait as parties to this Convention and calls upon all non-States Parties, especially those in the Middle East and Asia Pacific region where the level of acceptance of the Convention is still low, to immediately cease from using, stockpiling, producing and transferring Anti-Personnel Mines.

As the first Mine-Free Country in Asia, Malaysia will continue to strongly promote and support all initiatives and actions towards the universalisation of the Convention. On the other hand, Malaysia is very much concern about a large number of States that chose to be non-signatories.

Mr President,

Malaysia is of the view that Anti-Personnel Mines are of little military importance in influencing decisive battles or enhance the security of a nation. They only cause long lasting negative effects on the civil population and causes large land areas to be wasted. Our experience for four decades during an insurgency until 1989 speaks the truth. We are very glad that the era is over and that Malaysia is now a mine-free country.

Mr President,

Malaysia will continue to place universalisation of the Convention and its promotion high on the international agenda. Malaysia also

recognizes works of international organisations and commends the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines (ICBL), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other organisations for their strong and substantive contributions to make promoting and implementing the Convention to achieve a greater height.

Malaysia will seek their valuable advice and experience in planning and conducting a regional discussion at the ASEAN Regional Forum which will be held some time at the middle of next year (May 2008).

Mr President,

We must not be contented with the achievements thus far. The entire international community must strive relentlessly in this crusade against Anti-Personnel Mines to achieve a state of 'Zero Mines – Zero Victim'. Financial assistance and expertise must be provided particularly to developing nations affected by the Anti-Personnel mines to demine their lands and help the maimed victims to rebuild their lives.

Thank you Mr President.