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**Statement by the Brazilian delegation to the  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention  
The Dead Sea, 18 – 22 November 2007  
Agenda item 11 (e)**

Thank you Mr. President,

Since it is the first time my delegation takes the floor, we would like to express our appreciation to (His Royal Highness Prince Mired) (Your Highness) and the Government of Jordan for hosting this meeting, which has been very useful not only in helping our assessment of the current state of the Ottawa process but also to discuss ways of attaining a full and timely implementation of the Convention.

With regard to agenda item 11 (e), Brazil reaffirms the special attention it confers to cooperation and assistance under article 6 of the Convention, which for us is one of its fundamental pillars. In this context, Brazil has been a major contributor to OAS humanitarian demining missions in Central America and in the Ecuador – Peru border. The experience acquired in the course of such missions, as well as the training standards of Brazilian officers, enables us to extend and to enhance our cooperation with affected countries.

We understand that cooperation is very important to encourage the adherence of countries with fewer resources and also to assure that the implementation of the Convention is undertaken in a non-discriminatory way. Apart from its participation in demining activities, Brazil is considering the possibility of expanding the scope of its cooperation activities so as to include assistance to landmine victims.

Mr. President,

Brazil has given permanent proof of its unequivocal commitment to the Convention. We completed the destruction of our anti-personnel landmines stockpile in January 2003, well ahead of the deadline imposed to us. [The country has also adopted federal legislation that heavily penalizes any activities prohibited by the Mine-Ban Treaty, as mandated by its article 9] Moreover, Brazil strictly complies with the obligations enshrined in article 7 of the Convention, which, in our case, refer exclusively to mines retained for training purposes, under article 3. It is important to point out that Brazil, despite the extension of its border, has never resorted to the use of landmines.

As far as universalization is concerned, Brazil considers it to be a goal of utmost importance; one to be pursued with perseverance. It is necessary that the main producers and possessors of anti-personnel landmines adhere to this instrument. In face of the absence of relevant actors, Brazil remains concerned with the possibility of the

implementation of the Convention becoming an unbalanced process. Furthermore, the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in demining actions and also in activities aimed at persuading potential new countries to adhere to the Convention is viewed by Brazil as an important step towards the universalization of the Convention.

We can affirm today that the Convention, since its entry into force ten years ago, has already attained remarkable results in its two main areas: disarmament and humanitarian assistance. Much has been done so far, but there is still a long way ahead. The achievements reached up to this moment should not be used as excuses for complacency, or worse, for inaction. The members of the Convention have to look towards the future and renew their efforts and commitments in order to better face the challenges ahead.

Thank you very much.