



KENYA

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. PHILIP R.O. OWADE,
AMBASSADOR/DPR OF KENYA TO THE UN IN GENEVA
LEADER OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION TO THE 9TH
MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
24TH NOVEMBER, 2008

1. Kenya congratulates you for your election to preside over the 9MSP. We also congratulate His Royal Highness, Prince Mirad of Jordan for the very able and dynamic leadership over the last one year.
2. Kenya has been an active supporter of the AP Mine Ban Convention and will continue to render its full support to the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan which bears the name of our capital city.
3. The 9MSP takes place against a background of unprecedented challenges pertaining to the implementation of the convention and the coordination of the gains already achieved. It is regrettable that not much has been achieved in the area of universalisation over the last one year and that among the states that remain outside the convention are some that produce, use or transfer and/or maintain large stockpiles of anti-personnel mines. We would like to urge for the total end of the use, transfer, stockpiling or prohibition of these weapons.

4. It is significant that 15 states with mine clearance deadlines in 2009 have been unable to meet their 10 year deadlines and have asked for extensions. I would like to convey my delegation's appreciation to the Analysing Group for the invaluable work in analysing these requests. Their report should make it possible for this meeting to make an informed decision on these requests. It is our hope that the decisions would be based on a constructive and objective criteria and in the spirit of consensus and cooperation that has characterized the work of the Convention. Cooperation must remain the hallmark of this convention.

5. It is our hope that this meeting will consolidate progress and achievements already made in addressing the other equally important challenge of victim assistance – with the ultimate objective of putting to an end the suffering caused by these inhuman weapons. This is one of the key strategic objectives of the Nairobi Action Plan. In this regard, we look forward to the forthcoming meeting in Oslo on 3rd December, 2008 on Cluster Munitions. We appeal to as many states as possible to sign the Cluster Munitions Convention so as to square the circle on these terrible weapons.

6. The International Mine Action Training Centre in Nairobi continues to train security personnel for the countries of the region on the danger posed by anti-personnel mines. We thank our partners for the invaluable support in this important subject.

Thank you