

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KENYA
TO THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION**

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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express our sentiments of congratulations to you Mr. President, and your colleagues assisting you, on your election to preside over of the Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. I assure you of my delegation's continued support and co-operation throughout your term. I also express our appreciation to the delegation of Nicaragua, the outgoing President, for the leadership and guidance exhibited over the last year in helping to advance the objectives of the Convention.

Kenya remains fully committed to fulfilling her obligations as a State Party to the Convention. In the last year, Kenya actively participated in all areas of the Convention's activities including at the intersessional meetings where we played the role of Co-Rapporteur to the Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness and Mine Action Technologies.

We believe this active participation has and continues to encourage others to work towards the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention including the universalisation and operationalisation of the Convention. Since the Third Conference of States Parties, we have submitted the initial Article 7 transparency report in December 2001 and the first annual report in April 2002. At the regional level, we are involved in a demining operation in the horn of Africa as part of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Mission along the Eritrea/Ethiopia border.

Mr. President,

I am sure that all of us who participated in the two intersessional meetings this year have appreciated not only the deliberations held, but also the organisational or logistical arrangements. My delegation is thus grateful to the Co-ordinating Committee under the very able leadership of Cecilia Sanchez of Nicaragua, for its hardwork in organizing the two meetings. We urge the Co-ordinating Committee to continue facilitating the implementation of the Convention in its usual transparent manner, especially with regard to organizing Standing Committee meetings.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the work undertaken by

the Standing Committees. We have taken note of the recommendations contained in their respective reports. These should be appropriately acted upon by all parties concerned.

A notable development has been the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). We are grateful to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for having promptly set up the Unit. The ISU has already proved to be a vital service provider at the Centre. We hope that it will in turn receive support and further strengthening to enable it provide more services to States Parties.

My delegation welcomes the President's Action Programme. The Programme traditionally lays the ground for the enhancement of the implementation of the Convention. The President of this meeting has charted a clear path focusing on the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention and ways of achieving them. This is a collective challenge and we should all spare no effort in working towards their achievement.

This year's Landmines Report released by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, is especially to be welcome because in the words of the theme of this year's Conference, the world is making progressive steps in embracing the new international humanitarian norm of rejecting anti-personnel mines. The number of states manufacturing landmines is decreasing; the export of landmines has gone down; mine action programmes have expanded, the use of anti-personnel mines has fallen; and the number of states ratifying the Convention has gone up. These are encouraging developments indeed, and we would like to welcome the new members and to urge those that are not yet parties to the Convention to do so.

We are aware that a large number of developing countries including Kenya are experiencing difficulties in fulfilling their obligations particularly in the technical and financial areas. We would urge those who are able to provide such assistance to increase their support. In this regard we express appreciation for the manner in which the sponsorship programme has been managed in helping to ensure more widespread representation at meetings of the Convention.

We also acknowledge the important role non-governmental organisations

have to played in this process. We would like to encourage them to continue working with us with the aim of reaching the overall implementation of the Convention.

In conclusion, I wish to welcome the kind gesture to host the Fifth Conference of State Parties by the Government of Thailand.

Thank you.