

**Mongolian Policy to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction
(Ninth meeting of the State Parties, 25-29 May, Geneva, Switzerland)**

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Mister President of the 9MSP, Co-Chair
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear participants

On behalf of Mongolian delegation, I would like to address my warm pleasure to Mr. Co-Chair on your Presidency at the Ottawa Convention Standing Committee meeting and express our confidence that under your guidance this important meeting will achieve all its objectives.

Also, I would like to congratulate Director of the GICHD for co-hosting this important activity and express our enjoyment for warm welcome and hospitality.

As a participant of the workshop, I like to thank all participants of the meeting and individuals who have been engaged this activity for an opportunity to explore humanitarian and military best practices on mine action and to share our views and thoughts on the subject.

Mongolia fully supports the international community's effort and initiatives undertaken on the Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpile, Production and Transfer of APMs and on their destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention. The Mongolian Government has paid a close attention to the Ottawa process ever since its inception and since then it continuing to participate as regularly as possible in international forums and workshops on this subject and supported all the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions on the Ottawa convention.

In October 2004, during an official visit to Canada, then-President of Mongolia Natsagiin Bagabandi stated that Mongolia has been pursuing a step-by-step approach on the issue of acceding to the Ottawa Convention.

In this framework, The subject of APMs became a major topic of discussion between Government agencies, politicians, researchers and professionals, as well as military specialists.

However, Due to particular considerations related to our national security and some specific circumstances of the country, Mongolia has not joined the Convention and announced its step by step approach towards signing the Convention. A numerous job have been done so far as a initial step.

In December 2006, The Mongolian Great Hural /The Parliament/ adopted new amendment to the Law on State Secrets, which excludes information about landmines from the state secret list with a view to promote our transparency and place details regarding the number of stockpiled antipersonnel mines in the public domain and international organizations.

Also in August 2007, The government submitted a national transparency measures report, in accordance with Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, in response to UN General Assembly Resolution 58/53 on a voluntarily basis.

At present Mongolia has 206417 Russian type antipersonnel mines which was never deployed for the purpose of security and border protection.

Mongolia is not a mine-affected country, though other unexploded ordnance are present. However, Mongolia has never deployed and will never deploy landmines on its territory and we can also state that Mongolia shall not transfer, acquire or place land mines and shall ensure a safe storage of its stocks.

As a future consideration, we are drafting an interagency action plan to implement its step-by-step accession to the Mine Ban Treaty, which will coordinate agencies activity and to create legal, financial and technological foundation for it.

However, Mongolia is considering its economic, technological and financial realities to implement this strategy. Thus, considering that our country has very limited source to destroy stockpiled mines and to create technologic basis, equipments to be involved.

Therefore, for us the cooperation, assistance and support through both bilateral channels and international organizations are fully appreciated.

Also, Mongolia is inviting technical experts from GICHD Implementation Support Unit to investigate technical quality of the mine stocks and advise on ways and means for the destruction including by advising on possible cost parameters and destruction sites.

On the behalf of the Government of Mongolia let me express that Mongolia will continue to fully share the aspirations to ban anti-personnel landmines and welcomes the workshop, which is an important event in assessing the process of the Ottawa Convention.

Thank you very much for attention.