

JORDAN
HIGH LEVEL STATEMENT

Dear Survivors,
Madame President,
Your Royal Highness,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, it gives me the greatest pleasure to convey to you all the greetings and warm wishes of His Majesty King Abdullah II, the Government of Jordan, and that of all Jordanians. I must at the onset thank the Colombian Government for the wonderful hospitality that it has so graciously afforded us during our stay. We are enchanted to be here in the beautiful city of Cartagena. I also would like to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway, and the Norwegian Government for presiding over this Summit in the most skillful and radiant manner. I congratulate all the delegates as well for being here and for renewing their pledge to rid the world of landmines.

To our brothers and sisters the survivors of landmine accidents all over the globe...we owe it to you most of all to keep the Mine Ban Convention strong and in good order. Whatever we, the States Parties do, it will never be enough to compensate for the pain and suffering that you have so bravely endured. We can however, and must, recommit ourselves to making sure that you are afforded your basic rights. That you also receive the right medical care and rehabilitation...services that will improve your health and raise your spirits. You must also be granted the opportunities to acquire the skills and tools that you need to lead a productive and dignified life.

I know that some of the survivors who are present here today may be thinking that this all sounds 'wonderful' and that you have heard it all before...but that the reality is different. That after all the speeches have been delivered and the delegates have gone home, that the situation will not change and progress will be minimal. In my opinion, you have the full right to feel this way. We the States Parties, I believe, have many achievements to tout about; however we can and ought to do much much more vis-à-vis survivor assistance...including in my country Jordan. We must remember that what makes the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention truly special is the solemn obligation and duty imparted on all parties to pay full attention to the needs and concerns of landmine survivors...this is what makes the Convention so unique and central.

Consequently...we have to ensure that no new casualties are added to the list by demining what remains. With the legal obligation ever in mind, it is the continued conviction of the Jordanian Government that all efforts are to be exerted to rid Jordanian soil of landmines...both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle. It was with great regret that the Hashemite Kingdom requested an extension for its Article 5 deadline in

2008. Without discussing the reasons why a request had to be submitted, let me reassure you all that Jordan's commitment to its clearance obligation is firm and unwavering. We know exactly what the remaining task entails and how to go about accomplishing it. We have garnered the political will, nurtured strong relationships with our external and internal partners and have bent over backwards to increase capacity. The rest is just mathematical...time needed to physically complete the task.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a firm believer in the AP Mine Ban Convention and has done its utmost in recent years especially to promote its aims. We hosted the 8th Meeting of States Parties in 2007, as most of you remember, with one of the primary goals being to encourage our brethren in our part of the world to embrace this noble cause. The universalization of the APMBC was a key issue for us and still is in many respects. In Jordan, our mine action or ERW action goals extend beyond our borders. We feel that it is our duty, because of geography and ability, to afford others via training courses and the like...the knowledge and expertise to conduct successful mine action (or ERW action) operations. To this end, I am glad to announce that we just recently delivered the first 'ERW International Senior Managers Training Course' in Amman with resounding success. I must acknowledge the contribution of our delivery partners, the ICRC, UNDP, GICHD, ISU, and JMU to the course and the very generous financial support from the US Department of State that made it all possible.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the great efforts of all States Parties to the APMBC for the work undertaken so far and for ensuring the success of this Summit. It is ultimately our responsibility, collectively, to sustain and maintain the integrity and health of the Convention by doing the best job that we can. Even though we will no doubt witness many challenges in the next decade, we have to bind together and redouble our efforts to make sure that the Convention does not teeter or run out of steam. We cannot and must not allow that to happen. Mine affected countries need to conclude their tasks and donor states have to maintain their support in the long run because millions of emplaced mines still threaten the lives of millions of people around the world. Anything less would be a great shame, a betrayal of our commitment to our survivors and detrimental to the goals of the Convention. So with great spirit and gusto let's make sure that the future is brighter for us all by recommitting ourselves to our noble cause.

And finally I must commend the amazing efforts and work of Mr. Kerry Brinkert and his team...the Implementation Support Unit for the success of this Summit as well as for the good health of the Convention as a whole. One must always 'give Caesar his due' and in this case I simply cannot praise the ISU enough. The work they do is truly remarkable and the way they do it is exemplary. I strongly encourage all States Parties to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of the ISU by continuing to support it.

With my best wishes to you all.
I thank you.