

Mr. President,

Let me first congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. You can count on the full support of the Brazilian delegation while conducting our works this year.

Mr. President,

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a hallmark in the international efforts to mitigate humanitarian suffering, save lives and preserve human dignity. It encompasses the very notion of incompatibility of certain methods and means of warfare with international humanitarian law.

The Convention enshrines the notion that we cannot afford losing our humanity in times of conflict. Every step taken in freeing the world of the scourge of anti-personnel mines is a step towards protecting the innocent.

Brazil has supported the Convention since its inception, and was one of the first States to sign and ratify it. Indeed, Brazil has been engaged in promoting capacity-building initiatives for decontamination and demining abroad years before the Convention entered into force. Brazil has no mined fields or contaminated areas, and has never deployed mines. Moreover, although Brazil has not held any stockpile of landmines since 2019, we remain constructively engaged in the Convention.

Our participation in this instrument adds up to our disarmament credentials as a peaceful country with a stern belief in the value of international cooperation. We acknowledge with satisfaction the fact that 164 States are already Parties to the Convention and emphasize the importance of its universalization in order to fully achieve its ultimate goal, a world without anti-personnel landmines. We therefore urge all States still outside the Convention to endeavor renewed efforts to accede to it as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

Brazil keeps a permanent capacity for humanitarian demining, as means to maintain preparedness, participate in UN mandated peace missions, and provide international cooperation.

The Brazilian Armed Forces support permanent teams for destruction, recovery and neutralization of explosives and unexploded ordnance.

Demining training is essential to maintain existing capacities in humanitarian demining. The training allows for the Brazilian assistance to other countries, and will remain a necessity as long as there are minefields in the world.

Mr. President,

International cooperation is one of the pillars of the Convention. Brazil attaches particular importance to it. Brazil has a long history in humanitarian demining. Since 1994, over 370 Officers from the Brazilian Army and Navy have participated in demining operations, most notably in South and Central America, as well as in Africa, under the aegis of the UN and of the Organization of American States.

One particular priority of Brazil in this field is the training of national experts, both civilian and military, in humanitarian demining techniques. By increasing national capacity to conduct demining operations, these initiatives strengthen national institutions and promote ownership of the clearing process.

Mr. President,

Brazil congratulates all parties involved in the discussions to sort out the obstacles presented and highlights that cooperation and dialogue are the most effective tools to resolve controversies on the implementation of the Convention.

I thank you.